

# AIG Licensure Cohort Frequently Asked Questions

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- 1) With whom does the AIG program in Onslow County partner?
  - a. We partner with East Carolina University.
- 2) What are the courses?
  - a. If you go to [www.ecugifted.com](http://www.ecugifted.com) and click on Licensure you will find an up-to-date list.  
Only 4 Courses Needed:  
All of the courses required by the add-on AIG Licensure Program at ECU are taught online, with the exception of two face-to-face weeks involving a camp with gifted children. The following courses are offered annually in this sequence:  
**SPED 6104: Introduction to Gifted Education (online with 1 week face-to-face):**  
An introduction to the education of gifted students emphasizing definitions, characteristics, theories of intelligence, and methods of identification. (Second summer session)  
**SPED 6401: Methods & Materials in Gifted Education (online):** An in-depth investigation of the materials, programs, and theories of educating the gifted. (Fall semester online)  
**SPED 6402: Differentiated Curriculum for the Gifted (online):** An in-depth study of student and program assessment and the development of differentiated curricula for gifted students. (Spring semester online)  
**SPED 6403: Practicum in Gifted Education (online with 1 week face-to-face):**  
Actual classroom experience with gifted children. Students will be responsible for planning and implementing instructional programs. (Second summer session)
- 3) How difficult/rigorous is the program?
  - a. This is graduate level coursework with ECU. They will expect you to study, plan, revise, implement, and reflect throughout the program. This is very job-embedded and they expect you to apply what you are learning. The work is from the graduate school at ECU and will require time and study. Past cohort members are a good resource for getting specific details. If you would like to talk to a past cohort member, please check the AIG website for names of cohort members (<http://onslowaig.weebly.com/aig-licensure-nc-licensure.html>).
- 4) How long is the program?
  - a. The cohort begins during the summer session of one year and is completed at the end of the following summer session.
- 5) What is the format of the program?
  - a. The program is primarily online. However during the two summers, students also are a part of a summer camp for gifted students in the Greenville area.
- 6) Can I get a Master's Degree with these courses?
  - a. (From [www.ecugifted.com](http://www.ecugifted.com))  
*A student can choose to earn the licensure by choosing gifted education as his/her*

*strand in the Masters in Elementary Education degree or by enrolling in the four courses as a non-degree student.*

- 7) What costs will I incur as a student?
  - a. As funds are available, teachers selected for the AIG Licensure Cohort have most of the program costs paid for. The Onslow County Schools AIG program pays for tuition and books.
  - b. All other costs are the responsibility of the student. This typically includes travel to and lodging at ECU for the two summer internship weeks. ECU usually makes a dorm available at a very reduced rate if you want to stay there. There may also be some costs associated with the creation of resources and materials for coursework. In addition, an application fee to ECU as a non-degree seeking student will cost about \$70 and paying for gifted to be added to a participants NC Teaching License costs about \$55-\$60).
- 8) What is expected of a member of the cohort?
  - a. A member of the cohort is expected to complete all coursework as assigned to the best of his/her ability.
  - b. A member of the cohort is expected to work collaboratively with others in the cohort.
  - c. A member of the cohort is expected to share information and resources at his/her school.
  - d. A member of the cohort is expected to use what he/she learns to help students 😊
  - e. A member of the cohort is expected to contact Michael Elder if he/she is at-risk of falling behind in a course.
  - f. A member of the cohort may be asked to repay funds if he/she drops out of a course or the cohort.
- 9) Do I need to take the GRE or MAT to be admitted?
  - a. No, you do not need a GRE or MAT score unless you want to use these credits toward a graduate degree. The credits are taken as a non-degree seeking student, so you do not need them.
- 10) Do I need to have a certain number of years of experience to be in a cohort?
  - a. All teachers are welcome to be a part of the cohort regardless of years of experience.
- 11) Are there pre-requisites for the cohort?
  - a. Members of the AIG Add-On Licensure Cohort must have an active NC Teaching License.
- 12) What does adding AIG to my teaching license mean?
  - a. Adding AIG to your license means that you have the qualification to be hired as an AIG specialist. However, more importantly, it means that you are more prepared to meet the needs of AIG students in the classroom. The classroom teacher spends the most time with AIG students. Therefore, we believe that everyone benefits when a teacher has more strategies to meet the diverse needs of gifted learners.
- 13) How does Onslow County AIG decide who is selected and how many participants can be funded?

- a. First we look at our AIG budget to see how many people we believe we can commit to funding (of course everything is always contingent on continued funding). Then we look at which schools have the greatest need for classroom teachers with a strong gifted background. This includes how many identified kids at the school and the number of licensed AIG teachers already at the school. We also consider factors such as a desire to work with all students including AIG children, intention on working in Onslow County in the future, principal recommendation, willingness to work with the cohort, and desire to grow professionally

14) Is there an application?

- a. If you are interested there is a "Letter of Interest" that you will complete to ECU and a form for Onslow County Schools.
- b. If an applicant is not selected, you can still be a part of the cohort as a self-pay. If you are selected then you make an agreement with the county and apply to ECU. There is an application fee with ECU.
- c. If you decide to become part of the cohort, then you will need to complete the online application to become a non-degree seeking student at ECU.

15) If I decide to self-pay how much is it?

- a. There are four courses each of which costs around \$636 currently (as of Fall Semester 2013).

# Tips/Thoughts from Past Cohort Members

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1. Do not wait until the last minute to try to register for the cohort! It requires your official transcript to be sent from your undergraduate degree and you have to do some formal application type things through ECU so it does take some time.
2. The first course is very packed and time intensive. Remember, they are putting a semesters worth of work into a summer course that only lasts a few weeks so do not wait to get started with your assignments.
3. Even though it requires much time and effort it will def. make you a better teacher. There is a lot of good, practical teaching ideas/pedagogy, especially in course 2.
4. When deciding on partners for creating the unit for the summer camp, I suggest that you partner with someone from Onslow County. It makes it easier when creating and collaborating on the lesson.
5. The one thing that I can think of at the moment that I would have liked to have known ahead of starting the class would have been "What technology will I need knowledge of, and what technology will I need to complete the classes?"
6. I am making many mistakes in working with the different web and internet programs that we have to use. And the fact that each of the professors prefers a different avenue for their work is making it even tougher. I have been late several times because of this, and have struggled often trying to do the work as they want it done. It is not that I cannot do the work....just where to do it and then how to send it is my biggest challenge.
7. Please let members know that timelines are NOT windows of time, like when our schools participate in the different modules (NCFalcon, Writing, etc). Participants are given assignments that they must start the first day of the timeline.
8. It would be good if the cohort met the first day of online courses to make sure that everyone could figure out how to get into the class. There are several different codes and places you have to register with in order to get into the first class. For someone who has never taken an online course at a university it is a bit confusing.
9. You need to have both knowledge and access to various computer programs. These professors are computer wizards and utilize a number of different engines to teach and gather work. They will teach you and work with you on every aspect. If you do not have internet access, you need to find one. Up-to-date computers will allow you to work all the software they require...
10. Put time aside... You need one full year to complete this course work and it is not a workshop. It is time consuming, but well worth the effort. Enter with an open mind and a bag full of imagination!

If you have further questions, please direct these to Michael Elder ([Michael.elder@onslow.k12.nc.us](mailto:Michael.elder@onslow.k12.nc.us) or (910) 455-2211 ext. 20264)

Most OCS AIG licensure information is posted at  
<http://onslowaig.weebly.com/aig-licensure-nc-licensure.html>  
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