

Thank you for inquiring about the Drake University online **Talented and Gifted (TAG) Endorsement** program! Here are some answers to **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS** about our program:

1. Why choose our online program?

For its quality! Our online courses are thought-provoking, utilize best practices for adult learning, and are based on the recommended program standards put forth by the National Association for Gifted Children. Students who complete the coursework are well-prepared to serve as a TAG teacher and/or coordinator of gifted services in a school district.

For its convenience, format, and flexibility! In addition to offering our classes in online format, busy students appreciate the scheduling and timeliness of our course offerings (Classes are often scheduled over breaks in the school year and for shorter periods of time (4-8 weeks, instead of 15 weeks)). Students also appreciate being able to select from a menu of classes to complete their endorsements, instead of cycling through a list of standardized requirements.

For its reputation! The Drake University Tag program has been the “gold standard” for preparing TAG teachers in Iowa since 2007. Our online TAG program has been a recipient of the Iowa Distance Education Association Point of Presence Award for Excellence, and our student persistence rate is 96%. Few people drop are classes once they enroll which is remarkable, since the national drop rate is 20-70%. Students from 31 states and 10 countries (including Italy, Japan, England, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Mexico, and South Korea) have completed our program.

2. What am I qualified to do with a Drake University TAG endorsement?

A PK-12 TAG endorsement licenses you to serve the needs of talented and gifted students in a public or private school setting. It also grants you the credentials to serve as the director of an elementary or secondary TAG program at either the school or district level.

NOTE: PK-12 Talented and Gifted teachers are listed as a “Teacher Shortage” area in many states, including Iowa. This means you may qualify for Forgiveness Loans. Please see these websites <http://www.iowacollegeaid.gov> and <http://www.collegezone.com> for more information.

3. How long does the TAG Endorsement take to complete?

You can complete the TAG endorsement in as quickly as two semesters, depending on your course load and the availability of coursework.

4. How are the TAG Endorsement classes delivered?

The TAG Endorsement courses are run **online** through the School of Education and our Drake University Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS). Students will receive a Drake ID when they register for the first class. You will use your ID and password to log into the Blackboard LMS.

Drake Internet Technology Services <https://www.drake.edu/its/> provides technology support and assistance 24/7. To contact Drake ITS, click [here](#).

5. How long do your courses last? The length of a course depends on the number of credits. Single credit courses run for four weeks. Two credit courses run for six weeks, and three credit courses run for eight weeks. Courses offered over our convenient January term courses are three weeks in length.

6. What courses do I need to take to complete to earn my endorsement? You need to complete 12 credit hours in coursework to earn a TAG endorsement from Drake University.

We offer a menu of courses ranging from 1-3 credits each (see menu below). **Note:** 100 level courses are designated for undergraduate students. 200 level courses are designated for graduate students.

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	CREDITS
PSYCHOLOGY STRAND (SELECT FROM THE FOLLOWING):		
EDUC 191/291	Introduction to Gifted Education	3
EDUC 192/292	Social-emotional Needs of the Gifted	2
EDUC 193/293	Creativity and Gifted	2
EDUC 194/294	Special Populations of Gifted	1
PROGRAMMING STRAND (SELECT FROM THE FOLLOWING):		
EDUC 195/295	Curriculum & Assessment of Gifted	3
EDUC 196/296	Differentiated Instruction for Gifted	1
EDUC 112/212	Challenging the Young Gifted Child	1
EDUC 190/290	Administration of Gifted Programs	1
FIELD EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT		
EDUC 110/210	Practicum in Gifted Education*	1
OPTIONAL COURSEWORK		
EDMA 299	Iowa Talented and Gifted conference for credit (Can be substituted for either strand)	1-2

* Indicates a required course.

Courses do not need to be taken in any particular order; however, we strongly recommend that you start your program with EDUC 191/291: Introduction to Gifted Education.

EDUC 110/210 Practicum in Gifted Education (1 credit) is required to be taken by the state for licensure. You can select coursework from either the Psychology strand and/or the Programming to complete the rest of your endorsement coursework. To see when courses are being offered, click [here](#).

7. How do I apply for admission to the TAG endorsement program?

To apply for admission, please contact our Lisa Kincaid at soegradadmission@drake.edu or call 515-271-255.

8. Do I have to be accepted into endorsement program to take coursework?

No. You can request to take up to seven credits as a non-degree student without formal admission into the program by completing this [form](#).

9. How do I register for classes?

When you are accepted into the Drake University endorsement program, you will receive directions for how to register for classes.

If you are a non-degree-seeking student, please complete this [form](#) in order to receive registration information.

10. Where do I purchase course materials?:

Students are responsible for purchasing the materials they need prior to the start of a class. For more information about what materials are required, please visit the [Drake University bookstore](#).

11. How much will it cost?

Drake University tuition and fees vary by program. Currently, the rate for the School of Education is \$535 per credit hour. **Note:** This does not include additional university fees.

We do offer a reduced tuition rate for the ITAG conference for credit course.

For more information about Drake University tuition and fees, please click on this [link](#).

12. Can I transfer in coursework?

Yes! For the TAG endorsement, you can transfer up to 6 of the 12 hours required by the Iowa Department of Education. Transfer hours must be approved by your advisor.

13. Can I complete the TAG endorsement as an undergraduate student?

Yes. Drake University students enrolled in the Teacher Education Program can obtain the TAG endorsement as a second endorsement. Undergraduate students from another college or university may enroll in online TAG courses as electives and should verify with their current institution that credits will transfer.

14. What if I have licensure questions? For licensure questions, in-state teachers can contact the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners through <http://www.state.ia.us/boee> for specific licensing questions.

Out-of-state teachers will need to contact your own state first, to check if you may complete the endorsement through our institution. We send official letters to districts or state departments on your behalf upon request.

15. After I finish the 12 hours of coursework, how do I apply for the TAG endorsement?

Iowa teachers, to add your endorsement to your state teaching licensure, please visit the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners online registration system [here](#).

If you have Drake endorsement questions email amber.welsh@drake.edu.

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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