

Master of Arts in Teaching: Elementary

Program Purpose

This program is designed to provide qualified individuals with a master's degree and initial certification in the area of elementary education by providing study of the knowledge, skills and dispositions necessary for effective teachers. This program contains extensive field work in Professional Development School settings and the full-time enrollment of the candidate. This program presumes a particular sequence of certain research-based courses.

Certification

The MAT-E program is intended to lead to an initial full Maryland certification in Elementary Education.

Program Location

Offered by FSU only at the University System of Maryland - Hagerstown

Program Objectives

- Provides candidates with an integrated, quality and intensive research-driven experience for teacher preparation
- Provides candidates with the knowledge, skills and dispositions of highly effective teachers
- Develops candidates who will demonstrate satisfactory performance on all relevant NCATE, state and constituent professional association program standards for the specialization area and on the College of Education's Conceptual Framework outcomes
- Engages candidates in a collaborative experience of staff development and preservice teacher training in Professional Development Schools
- Helps candidates make a positive impact on participant schools and on the students
- Engages and aids candidates in deep reflection, research and problem solving involving teaching and learning
- Expects candidates provide evidence of proficient performance through displays of teaching skills and through documentation of student learning

For more information:

Office of Graduate Services
301.687.7053
gradservices@frostburg.edu

Coordinator:

Dr. Kris McGee
Department of Educational Professions
240.527.2730
KMcGee@frostburg.edu

- Provides candidates with a broad understanding of learning and literacy acquisition and the skills to promote effective learning across curricular areas
- Provides candidates who hold bachelor's degrees in fields other than education with an alternative avenue of initial certification and induction into teaching.

Program Entry Requirements

Program entry is a three-step process as described below.

Step I: Applicant Screening

The minimum academic requirements for admission are as listed below.

NOTE: Elementary applicants must submit applications by March 1. Applicants may be accepted upon completion of the admissions requirements.

Academic Requirements:

Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum grade of C in each required course. Pass/Fail will be accepted if the institution can assure the passing grade is above a D.

- Transcripts from all undergraduate institutions on file with the Office of Graduate Services

Demonstration of Advanced Writing

- An advanced writing course or documentation of advanced writing skills

Successful completion of college-level mathematics excluding developmental mathematics

- Three courses and a minimum of 9 credit hours

Successful completion of natural science courses

- A minimum of 10 credit hours in science that must include one course in biological, one course in physical science and preferably one course in earth science. Additionally, one of the courses submitted must contain a lab.

Successful completion of a literature course

- A minimum of 3 credit hours in course

Successful completion of social science courses

- A minimum of 9 credit hours in social sciences, including history and psychology

An additional 3 credit hours in any previously stated required area or fine arts or a foreign language.

- Additional credits must meet the previously mentioned guidelines as stated.

Minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0

Applicants must have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher for full admission status. Applicants with GPAs between 2.75 and 2.99 may be given provisional admission. Applicants with GPAs under 2.75 may be considered on an individual basis for provisional admission. Provisional admission candidates must achieve a minimum 3.0 GPA in the first semester to achieve full admission status.

- All official transcripts from undergraduate institutions submitted to the Office of Graduate Services

Passing grade on PRAXIS CORE test:

Before applicants can be provisionally or fully accepted into the program, a passing score as established by the state of Maryland for PRAXIS CORE test or qualifying scores on the SAT, ACT or GRE test must be on file in the Office of Graduate Services. SAT, ACT or GRE will only be accepted for applicants with an undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or higher. Submission of test results to the Office of Graduate Services.

Additional Requirements:

Once admitted, a TB test (current to one year) must be completed during the beginning of the program and prior to entering the schools. Deadline for submission is August 1.

- Submission of test results to the program coordinator

Once admitted, students will be required to participate in **fingerprinting and a criminal background check**, and submit the criminal disclosure statement, confirming that the candidate is free of convictions that would disqualify him or her from obtaining certification in Maryland as an admissions requirement.

- Submission of results to the program coordinator

STEP II: Entry Portfolio Submission

The MAT Screening Committee reviews applicant portfolios. Applicants must demonstrate in their entry portfolios how they possess intellectual, personal and professional qualities. Requirements for portfolio completion and interview will be provided by the Program Coordinator upon application to the program.

STEP III: In-Person Assessment

Selected applicants will be invited to participate in the in-person assessments. Applicants are encouraged to attend an information session or schedule an appointment with the program coordinator to review the portfolio requirements and process. Applicants will be scheduled for an interview when applications have been received, transcripts have been received and cleared for prerequisites, and applicants have reviewed the interview process. There are three parts to the entrance in-person assessment:

1. Question/response
2. Presentation
3. Writing sample

Successful presentation of the entrance portfolio and clear articulation of reasons for entering teaching are presented in an entrance interview that shall be conducted by members of the educational community. Interview team members may include FSU faculty, Professional Development School administrators and teachers, county administrators and/or former Master of Arts in Teaching candidates.

Following the in-person assessment and submission of passing PRAXIS CORE, SAT, ACT or GRE scores, applicants will receive written notice regarding acceptance into the program through the Office of Graduate Services.

Program Exit Requirements

(Elementary Education)

Program exit and recommendation for certification are contingent upon the following:

- Successful completion of all course work with a cumulative 3.0 or higher GPA
- Successful completion of all practicum experiences
NOTE: Candidates are required to complete two in-school practicum experiences totaling a minimum of 100 days of supervised and mentored interning. Full-time or part-time teaching employment while enrolled in the MAT program is considered on an individual basis and requires permission from the dean of the College of Education and an official memorandum of understanding between FSU and the hiring Board of Education or like educational entity.
- Successful completion of the research requirement
- Successful completion of the Exit Portfolio presentation
- Successful attainment and documentation of the Maryland Teacher Technology Standards
- Evidence of having taken the appropriate Praxis II content and pedagogy tests.
Note: Passing scores on applicable content area Praxis II exams are required for licensure by the state of Maryland.
- Approval of the MAT Assessment Committee

Program Curriculum

Professional Education Core	6 credits
Program Course Requirements	31 credits
Practicum Requirement	9 credits
Total	46 credits

Professional Education Core: 6 credits

EDUC 603 Principles and Practices of Research

EDUC 606 Developmental Theory & Experiential Growth

Program Course Requirements: 31 credits

EDUC 661 Mathematics: Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

EDUC 662 Science and Health: Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

EDUC 665 The Arts: Contrast and Connections

EDUC 666 Social Studies: Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

EDUC 667 Management and the Elementary Learning Environment

PHEC 604 Human Movement and Physical Activity for the Elementary Classroom

REED 530 Process & Acquisition of Language and Reading

REED 531 Literacy Instruction

REED 532 Reading Materials

REED 533 Reading Assessment

SPED 551 Adapting Instruction in Diverse Classrooms

Practicum Requirement: 9 credits

EDUC 696 Practicum I (3 credits)

EDUC 697 Practicum II (6 credits)

Total credit hours: 46

Master of Arts in Teaching: Secondary/P-12

Certification Subject Areas

- **Art**
- **Biology**
- **Chemistry**
- **Earth Science**
- **English**
- **French**
- **Math**
- **Physics**
- **Social Studies**
- **Spanish**

Program Purpose

This program is designed to provide qualified individuals with a master's degree and initial certification in the area of Secondary Education (7-12) content specialization, World Languages (PreK-12) or Art (PreK-12) by providing study of the knowledge, skills and dispositions necessary for effective teachers. This program contains extensive field work in Professional Development School settings and anticipates the full-time enrollment of the candidate. This program presumes a particular sequence of certain research-based courses.

Certification

The MAT-S program is intended to lead to an initial full Maryland certification in Secondary Education (7-12) content specialization, World Languages (PreK-12) or Art (PreK-12) content specialization.

Program Location

Offered only at Frostburg campus.

For more information:

Office of Graduate Services
301.687.7053
gradservices@frostburg.edu

Coordinator:

Dr. Jennifer Bischoff
Department of Educational Professions
301.687.3169
jlbischoff@frostburg.edu

Program Objectives

- Provides candidates with an integrated, quality and intensive research-driven experience for teacher preparation
- Provides candidates with the knowledge, skills and dispositions of highly effective teachers
- Develops candidates who will demonstrate satisfactory performance on all relevant NCATE, state and constituent professional association program standards for the specialization area and on the College of Education's Conceptual Framework outcomes
- Engages candidates in a collaborative experience of staff development and preservice teacher training in Professional Development Schools
- Helps candidates make a positive impact on participant schools and on the students
- Engages and aids candidates in deep reflection, research and problem solving involving teaching and learning
- Expects candidates provide evidence of proficient performance through displays of teaching skills and through documentation of student learning
- Provides candidates with a broad understanding of learning and literacy acquisition and the skills to promote effective learning across curricular areas
- Provides candidates who hold bachelor's degrees in fields other than education with an alternative avenue of initial certification and induction into teaching

Program Entry Requirements

Program entry is a three-step process as described below.

Step I: Applicant Screening

The minimum academic requirements for admission are as listed below.

NOTE: Application deadline is April 1.

Bachelor's Degree

Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in the content area to be pursued for teaching certification that will satisfy the content standards for national teacher education accrediting associations and their constituent professional association programs for the content area. In lieu of the content degree in the area of certification, applicants must have successfully completed the equivalent university core course requirements, any specific state requirements for Maryland teacher certification not addressed in the MAT program, national teacher education and accrediting associations' standards and outcomes, and Maryland certification requirements as determined by transcript audit by the MAT Secondary/PreK-12 coordinator. A transcript audit will be completed for every applicant by the MAT Secondary/PreK-12 coordinator. Applicants with course deficits as determined by the transcript audit are required to complete all deficit course work before entering the first practicum semester.

GPA Requirements

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA (grade point average) of 3.0 or higher or possess a prior graduate degree in an appropriate content area. Students with GPAs between 2.75 and 2.99 may be granted provisional admission. Provisional admission candidates must achieve at least a 3.0 GPA during the first semester in the program to achieve full admission status.

PRAXIS CORE, SAT, ACT or GRE scores (by May 1)

Applicants must submit passing scores (as established by the State of Maryland) on the PRAXIS CORE tests, or a qualifying score on the SAT, ACT or GRE test by May 1.

STEP II: Entry Portfolio Submission

Applicants must demonstrate in an entry portfolio how they possess intellectual, personal, and professional qualities that will contribute to making them successful teachers. Requirements for the entrance portfolio will be shared with all applicants by the Program Coordinator. Applicants are encouraged to attend a portfolio and interview information session or meet directly with the Program Coordinator to review the requirements.

Portfolios are submitted to the MAT program coordinator prior to the scheduled interview. The portfolio is used as part of the overall selection process for admission to the MAT.

STEP III: In-Person Assessment

Selected applicants will be invited to participate in the In-person panel Interviews. Applicants are encouraged to attend an information session or schedule an appointment with the program coordinator to review the interview process. Applicants will be scheduled for an interview when their applications have been received, transcripts have been received and reviewed for prerequisites, and applicants have reviewed the interview process.

There are three parts to the panel interview:

1. Question/response
2. Presentation
3. Writing sample (Self Statement)

Interview panel members may include FSU faculty, Professional Development School administrators and teachers, county administrators, and/or former Master of Arts in Teaching candidates.

Portfolio/interview information sessions are scheduled for fall and spring. In these sessions, applicants will receive information and instructions about constructing the portfolio and preparing for the 3-part entrance interview.

Additional Program Requirements

- All candidates must pass a fingerprinting and criminal background check prior to participating in any clinical experiences in the program.
- All candidates must meet Practicum I Candidacy requirements.
- To continue in the program, candidates must maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA with no grade lower than C and no incomplete grades for each semester.
- Candidates must attain an acceptable or higher rating on an applicable candidate dispositions and responsibilities evaluation for each administration (including remediation process) of the evaluation instrument.

Practicum I Candidacy

Before admission to Practicum I, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Candidates must complete all prerequisite requirements.
- Candidates must be certified free of TB (current to one year).
- Candidates must submit the criminal disclosure statement confirming that the candidate is free of convictions that would disqualify him/her from obtaining certification in Maryland.
- Candidates must complete all courses with a "C" or above – cumulative 3.0 GPA.
- Candidates must take Praxis II content knowledge test in area of specialization or OPI/WPT prior to the start of the Practicum II.

Program Curriculum

Professional Education Core	6 credits
Program Course Requirements	21-22 credits
Practicum Requirement	12 credits
Capstone	3 credits
Total	42-43 credits

Professional Education Core: 6 credits

EDUC 603 Principles and Practices of Research (3 cr.)

EDUC 606 Developmental Theory & Experiential Growth (3 cr.)

Program Course Requirements: 21-22 credits

REED 617 Teaching Reading in the Content Areas (3 cr.)

SCED 51x or 520 or EDUC 550 and 551 Content Area Methods (3-4 cr.)

SCED 510 Secondary Methods and Curriculum (3 cr.)

EDUC 565 Introduction to Technology for Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century (3 cr.)

EDUC 663 Management and the Learning Environment (3 cr.)

SPED 551 Adapting Instruction in Diverse Classrooms (3 cr.)

EDUC 613 Classroom Assessment (3 cr.)

Practicum Requirement: 12 credits

SCED 696 Practicum I with Secondary Seminar (6 cr.)

SCED 697 Practicum II with Secondary Seminar (6 cr.)

Capstone: (3 credits)

SCED 700 MAT Secondary/P-12 Capstone: Action Research and Professional Portfolio (3 cr.)

Additional Co-curricular Recommendation

A candidate wishing to teach in the middle school may choose to add EDUC 545 Middle School Curriculum and Methods. Students choosing this option will be required to take an additional Content Area Reading course, such as REED 518 to satisfy the requirement of the Advanced Professional Certificate.

Transfer/Proficiency Credit

If you have successfully completed (grade of B or better) graduate courses at another accredited institution, you may apply for transfer credit for up to 9 credits. If, upon faculty assessment, the courses are deemed essentially comparable to courses in the program, you will be awarded credit toward completion of your degree. This does not apply to the two practica and the capstone course. All courses considered for transfer credit must meet the graduate transfer credit policy requirements including the six-year limit.

Proficiency credit and credit by exam are not options in this program.

Program Exit Requirements

Program exit and recommendation for certification are contingent upon the following:

- Successful completion of all course work.
- Successful completion of all practicum experiences.
NOTE: Candidates are required to complete two in-school practicum experiences totaling a minimum of 100 days of supervised and mentored interning. Full-time or part-time teaching employment while enrolled in the MAT program is considered on an individual basis and requires permission from the dean of the College of Education and an official memorandum of understanding between FSU and the hiring Board of Education or like educational entity.
- Successful completion of the research requirement.
- Successful completion of the Exit Portfolio presentation.
- Successful attainment and documentation of the Maryland Teacher Technology Standards.
- Successful completion of the PDS activities requirement for each practicum.
- Evidence of having taken the appropriate Praxis II content and pedagogy tests.
Note: Passing scores on applicable content area Praxis II exams are required for licensure by the state of Maryland.
- Completion of program with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Approval of the MAT program coordinator.