Master of Arts in Teaching - Elementary

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.

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.
- Demonstration of Advanced Writing
- Successful completion of college-level mathematics excluding developmental mathematics
- Successful completion of natural science courses
- Successful completion of a literature course
- An additional 3 cr edit hours in any previously stated required area or fine arts or a foreign language.
- Minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0

Documented By:
- Transcripts from all undergraduate institutions on file with the Office of Graduate Services
- An advanced writing course or documentation of advanced writing skills
- Three courses and a minimum of 9 credit hours
- 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.
- A minimum of 3 credit hours in course
- A minimum of 9 credit hours in social sciences, including history and psychology
- Additional credits must meet the previously mentioned guidelines as stated.

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.

For more information:
Office of Graduate Services
301.687.7053
gradservices@frostburg.edu

Coordinator:
Dr. Jamelyn Tobery-Nystrom
Department of Educational Professions
USM-Hagerstown
jctoberynystrom@frostburg.edu
240.527.2735 or 240.527.2741, 2738
MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING - ELEMENTARY

Passing grade on PRAXIS CORE test:
Before applicants can be provisionally or fully accepted into
the program, a passing cumulative 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. Applicants with a
GPA below a 2.75 must take and pass each section of the Praxis
Core exam.

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.

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 ob-
taining certification in Maryland as an admissions requirement.

STEP II: Entry Portfolio Submission
The MAT Screening Committees review applicant portfolios. Applicants must demonstrate in their entry portfolios how they possess intel-
lectual, personal and professional qualities. Applicants must include evidence of the following six attributes in their entry portfolios. The
portfolio must contain at least three artifacts for each attribute. Possible examples of artifacts show relevance to educational practices and
working with students. Students are encouraged to meet with the program coordinator to review portfolio requirements.

Attribute 1: Dedicated Professional
Attribute 2: Leader (instructional leader)
Attribute 3: Continuous Assessor
Attribute 4: Educational Advocate
Attribute 5: Collaborative Bridge Builder
Attribute 6: Reflective Decision-maker

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/lesson
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, Profes-
sional 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
- 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 Frostburg State University 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.
- Completion of program with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Approval of the MAT Assessment Committee

**Program Description**

**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 and 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**