

Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)

The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Program is an intensive 53 credit hour master's and initial teacher licensure program that prepares future educators to enter the classroom ready to create innovative and rigorous learning experiences for today's students.

The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) is designed for individuals who do not have prior teaching experience or an undergraduate degree in education. The MAT at Southeast Missouri State University is approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for licensure in two areas: Mild / Moderate Cross-Categorical (K-12) and Early Childhood Special Education (Birth-3rd grade). This courses in this program are online and can meet the needs of those who are not able to relocate or must work full time. The program includes three field experiences at the introductory, mid-level, and end of the program. These field experiences may be done in area classrooms where student reside.

Southeast Missouri State University is consistently recognized for academic excellence by the U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges Rankings for institutions in the Midwest and is fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. In addition, the College of Education, Health and Human Studies has received national recognition for excellence from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), & Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI). This recognition highlights the College of Education's commitment of providing education of the highest quality and standards to students.

Graduate education at Southeast is guaranteed quality at an affordable price. Southeast offers competitive tuition rates for graduate students, compared to other online graduate programs.

**Mild Moderate Cross Categorical Candidates
Becoming Career Ready...**

/Students become certified to teach students with exceptionalities in grades K-12.

/Students participate in multiple internships.

/Students complete research relating to issues in K-12 special education.

**Early Childhood Special Education Candidates
Becoming Career Ready...**

/Students become certified to teach students with exceptionalities birth through grade 3.

/Students participate in multiple internships.

/Students complete research relating to issues in early childhood special education.

Career Planning

Graduates of this program may find new teaching opportunities with the increased expertise and certification. Special education is a high demand field, with teachers certified in special education finding jobs easily. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that employment opportunities for K-12 special education teachers are expected to grow by 6%. Additionally, children with disabilities are being identified at an earlier age, with an expected 16% increase in demand for early childhood special education teachers. The Missouri Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education identified Mild/Moderate Cross Categorical K-12 and Early Childhood Special Education B-3 as the second and third most critical teacher shortage areas for Missouri schools in 2019-2020.

Admission Requirements**Mild Moderate Cross Categorical Emphasis Certification in Special Education K-12:**

1. An undergraduate GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale
2. Pre-Requisite Courses:
 - PY/CF 120 The Child or PY222 Development of the Adolescent (or equivalent)
 - EX 390 Psychology and Education of Children with Exceptionalities or EX 635 Psychology and Education of Students with Special Needs (or equivalent)

Students may be provisionally admitted without completing the two required pre-requisite courses, if the GPA requirement is met. Students have one year after admission to complete the two pre-requisite courses.

**Early Childhood Special Education Emphasis Certification
Education Birth-3rd Grade:**

1. An undergraduate GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale
2. Pre-Requisite Courses:
 - PY/CF 120 The Child or PY222 Development of the Adolescent (or equivalent)
 - EX 390 Psychology and Education of Children with Exceptionalities or EX 635 Psychology and Education of Students with Special Needs (or equivalent)

Students may be provisionally admitted without completing the two required pre-requisite courses, if the GPA requirement is met. Students have one year after admission to complete the two pre-requisite courses.

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This is a guide based on the 2020-2021 Graduate Bulletin and is subject to change. The time it takes to earn a degree will vary based on factors such as dual enrollment, remediation, and summer enrollment. Students meet with an academic advisor each semester and use Degree Works to monitor their progress.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILD – 53 hours required

- ___ EX507 Families and the Exceptional Child (3)
- ___ EX601 Educational Assessment (3)
- ___ EX602 Language Acquisition of the Exceptional Child (3)
- ___ EX618 Intro to Children with Exceptionalities (2)
- ___ EX619 Intro to Mild Moderate Cross Categorical Internship (1)
- ___ EX621 Behavior Intervention Strategies (2)
- ___ EX622 Behavior Intervention Strategies Internship (1)
- ___ EX652 Techniques of Teaching Mild Moderate Cross Categorical (3)
- ___ EX693 Special Education and the Law (3)
- ___ EX696 Exceptional Child Education Advanced Internship (8)
- ___ EL606 Curriculum Construction in a Multicultural Society (3)
- ___ EL615 Action Research (3)
- ___ GR698 Masters' Final Comprehensive Exam (0)

Choose One Area of Emphasis:**EMPHASIS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION**

- ___ CE530 Foundations of Early Childhood Special Education (3)
- ___ CE605 Issues and Trends in Early Childhood Education (3)
- ___ CE610 Curriculum, Methods and Program Management in Early Childhood (3)
- ___ CE634 Informal Assessment (3)
- ___ EL603 Teaching Elementary School Mathematics (3)
- ___ EL644 Understanding and Applying the Multidimensional Process of Reading (3)

EMPHASIS IN MILD MODERATE CROSS CATEGORICAL

- ___ EL 608 Diagnosis and Remediation of Difficulties in Learning Mathematics (3)
- ___ EL629 Literature Across the Curriculum (3)
- ___ EL644 Understanding and Applying the Multidimensional Process of Reading (3)
- ___ EL647 Reading Assessment (3)
- ___ EX691 Transition Planning for Individuals with Exceptional Learning Needs (3)
- ___ SE602 Effective Literacy Instruction at the Middle and Secondary Level (3)

Recommended sequence of required coursework

Because of the intensive work load for this program, graduate students will work closely with an advisor to take the appropriate sequence of courses, including clinical experiences. The field work must be completed in approved settings, under the supervision of a certified special education teacher and qualified university supervisor. This field work may be done in the graduate student's workplace, if the setting meets the requirements.

The general course sequence for all students completing the required clinical experiences is:

- Early Internship: EX619 (1)
- Mid-Level Internship: EX622 (1)
- Culminating Practicum: EX696 (8)
- Capstone Research Project: EL615 (3) and GR698 (0)

Mild Moderate Cross Categorical Licensure Requirements

- Passing score on MO Content Exam – 050 Mild/Moderate Cross Categorical Special Education (Must be completed prior to EX696 Advanced Internship)
- Passing score on Mo Pre-Service Teacher Assessment: completed in EX696 Advanced Internship
- 3.0 Cumulative GPA

Early Childhood Special Education Licensure Requirements

- Passing score on MO Content Exam – 049 Early Childhood Special Education (Must be completed prior to EX696 Advanced Internship)
- Passing score on Mo Pre-Service Teacher Assessment: completed in EX696 Advanced Internship
- 3.0 Cumulative GPA

To learn more
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To explore
the College of Education, Health
and Human Studies, visit
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