

Master Arts Teaching (MAT) with an Emphasis in Special Education

This program is offered by the School of Education and is available only at the St. Louis main campus.

Program Description

The master of arts in teaching (MAT) program provides candidates with a strong knowledge base of content, child and adolescent development and current research that supports best practices in education. This program is centered around contemporary design-based research principles with a focus on how students learn within inquiry-based environments.

This graduate degree program is designed to provide the foundation for teacher preparation leading to Missouri initial teacher certification and is approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in the following emphasis areas: elementary education, middle school education, secondary school education, or special education.

The Master of Arts in Teaching is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

Learning Outcomes

The goals of the MAT with an emphasis in special education are to cultivate graduates who are:

- Knowledgeable of the history of special education, characteristics of students with disabilities and principles and foundations underlying best practices.
- Proficient in designing, adapting and modifying effective assessment plans, instructional strategies and curricula and/or intervention plans based on current research regarding cognitive, social and emotional development in students with disabilities.
- Reflective about their roles as educators to improve learning outcomes, and who collaborate with families and other members of the community in order to advocate for inclusive and equitable educational opportunities for persons with disabilities.
- Capable of recognizing, valuing and responding to the unique individual abilities and differences of students with special needs.

Emphasis in Special Education

The emphasis in special education is designed to provide the foundation for teacher preparation leading to Missouri initial teacher certification in mild/moderate disabilities: cross-categorical (K-12). Coursework is specifically directed toward knowledge of characteristics of learners with special needs, assessment practices, research-based behavior and academic interventions and inclusive practices.

Required Coursework

The following 36 hours of courses and 14 hours of field experiences are required to earn the MAT with an emphasis in special education. Of the 50 total hours required for the MAT, students must complete a minimum of 31 hours in residence, with courses required in residence marked below with an asterisk. Students are advised that Missouri initial teacher certification may require more hours than are listed for the MAT degree. Students must consult an advisor to obtain a personalized program of study. To receive Missouri teacher certification in mild/moderate disabilities: cross-categorical (K-12), students are required to complete 49 hours of courses and 13 hours of field experience.

Foundations

- CMAT 5000 Teaching in a Diverse Society* (3 hours)
- CMAT 5505 Psychological Foundations of Education^ (3 hours)
- CMAT 5140 Digital Pedagogy and Assistive Learning Technologies (3 hours)
- SPED 5245 Counseling for Life's Transitions* (3 hours)
- SPED 5240 Psychoeducational Assessment* (3 hours)
- SPED 5050 Language Development (3 hours)

