Master of Arts in Teaching in Special Education
PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET

Program Description

A member of the NCATE accredited School of Education, the Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education: General Curriculum Program is approved by the NC State Department of Public Instruction to offer a license in Special Education: General Curriculum (K-12) and approved by the UNC Board of Governors to offer the Master of Arts in Teaching degree. The program leading to the Master of Arts in Teaching degree (M.A.T.) in Special Education: General Curriculum provides professional training for persons who already have an undergraduate degree with or without licensure and current “lateral entry” teachers who are seeking special education licensure. The program combines initial (A) and advanced (M) level licensure requirements for Special Education: General Curriculum in a two-phase process. Students enrolling in the M.A.T. program must take 39-45 semester hours consisting of 27-33 hours in Phase 1 and 12 hours in Phase 2. All students complete a series of field experiences, including a Product of Learning experience. The time of program completion is an estimated 2-3 years when taking 3-6 credits per semester, depending upon entering credentials.

Students should see the Chairperson of the Department of Middle Grades, Secondary and Specialized Subjects for further information regarding specific coursework requirements and a plan of study.

Admission Requirements

To the Department

NOTE: No more than 12 semester hours to be counted toward the degree may be completed prior to formal admission to the M.A.T. degree program.

All applicants must submit the following for admission to Graduate Studies:

- A completed application for the M.A.T. Program to the FSU Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management with the $40 non-refundable application fee: http://www.uncfsu.edu/graduateschool/admissions
- One official baccalaureate transcript and transcript(s) of any previous graduate study showing an appropriate grade point average
- Official test scores, as required for the program (Official application, test scores and transcripts must be sent directly to the Director of Admissions and Enrollment Management from the testing agency or be recorded on an official transcript.)
- Two letters of recommendation from persons qualified to evaluate the applicant’s abilities to pursue graduate work, as required for the M.A.T. program

Test Administration Requirements

Applicants must submit official competitive scores on one of the following two entrance examinations:

- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or
- Miller Analogies Test (MAT).

To Teacher Education

Students admitted to the M.A.T. degree program are automatically admitted to Teacher Education.

To Student Teaching

Only applicants who are not licensed and are not currently lateral entry teachers must apply for official Student Teaching (SPED 600-Practicum in SPED). These applicants must submit the following for admission to Student Teaching at least a semester in advance of the experience:
Participants who complete their licensure requirements prior to July 1, 2014 must complete required PRAXIS II examinations prior to applying for teacher licensure in Special Education: General Curriculum. Test scores more than five (5) years old at the time of application will not be considered.

- SPED: General Curriculum
  - PRAXIS II Test: 5543 or 0543 – Education of Exceptional Students: Mild to Moderate Disabilities--score 158
  - PRAXIS II Test: 5511 or 0511-Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge--score 148

Participants who complete their licensure requirements after July 1, 2014 must complete required Massachusetts Tests for Educator License (MTEL) tests and PRAXIS II examination prior to applying for teacher licensure in Special Education: General Curriculum.

- SPED: General Curriculum
  - MTEL Foundations of Reading test: 90 (score TBA)
  - MTEL General Curriculum test: 03 (score TBA)
  - PRAXIS II Test: 5543 or 0543 – Education of Exceptional Students: Mild to Moderate Disabilities--score 158

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
(39-45 Credits)

| Lateral entry and persons without licensure in Special Education must take the Phase 1 courses/PRAXIS II requirements first, prior to applying for the initial (A-level) license in SPED: General Curriculum (27-33 credits). The master’s program and M-level licensure will be completed by Phase 2 courses (12 credits). Both Phase 1 and Phase 2 courses (minimum 39 credits) constitute the master’s degree program. PRAXIS II requirements must be completed prior to applying for the license in SPED: General Curriculum. Phase 1: Initial Licensure Requirements (27-33 sem hours) |
|---|---|
| EDUC 610 Planning and Implementing Instruction for Diverse Learners (3 sh) |
| EDUC 630 Advanced Educational Psychology and Measurement (3 sh) |
| SPED 530 Introduction to Special Education (3 sh) or SPED 615 Trends and Issues in Special Education (3 sh) |
| SPED 647 Educational Assessment Students with Disabilities (3 sh) |
| SPED 515 Assessing and Teaching Reading to Students with Disabilities (3 sh) |
| SPED 518 Assessing and Teaching Mathematics and Writing to Students with Disabilities (3 sh) |
| SPED 580 Advanced Management of Learning Environments (3 ch) |
| SPED 631 Teaching Students with Mild to Moderate Disabilities (Academic Methods) (3 sh) |
| SPED 640 Master’s Internship in Special Education (3 sh)* (a 150-hour field experience course) *[see below] |

Notes:
- Students who are not licensed in an area of education and who are not currently lateral entry should take the following 2 courses in place of SPED 640: SPED 480-Seminar II: Field Experience in SPED (3 sh) (a 90-hour field experience course) and SPED 600 Practicum in Special Education (6 sh) (a 250-hour student teaching experience; requires admission to Student Teaching at least a semester prior to registration).

| Phase 2: MAT Program Completion and Advanced Licensure Requirements (12 sem hours) |
|---|---|
| After acquisition of the initial SPED: General Curriculum license, participants will complete their M.A.T. program with the following courses: |
| EDUC 690 Applied Research in Education (3 sh) |
| SPED 643 Seminar in Special Education (3 sh) or SPED 649 Consultative Role of the Special Educator (3 sh) |
| SPED 633 Teaching Adolescents with Disabilities (3 sh) |
| SPED 698 Advanced Research Products of Learning (3-6 sh) (a 100 hour field experience; should be taken during the final regular semester of the program). A product of learning is required which includes a Leadership and Collaboration Project. A student must select one of the following three options: (1) Master’s Action Research Project, (2) Master’s Thesis, or (3) Advanced Professional Portfolio. A variable credit of three to six hours can be earned. Students who elect to write a thesis will earn six semester hours and those who elect to conduct action research or develop an advanced portfolio will earn three semester hours. |

Notes:
- Students should apply for graduation from the M.A.T. program according to the procedures and timelines established by the University and Office of the Registrar.
- See required licensure examination information above.

Upon completion of the Phase 2 M.A.T. Program requirements above, a candidate should contact the Office of Teacher Education to request a recommendation for a change of license to the M-level license in SPED: General Curriculum.

- Students without licensure in Special Education should complete the MTEL and/or PRAXIS II
requirements by the end of Phase I.

- All evidence(s) required for teaching licensure in North Carolina must be submitted prior to program completion. Upon completion of the Phase 1 and licensure examination requirements, a candidate should make application for A-level licensure through the Office of Teacher Education.

**NOTE:** Apply for candidacy after completion of 12 credits of graduate level courses.

To be admitted to candidacy to a Master’s degree program, a graduate student must have: [Admission to Candidacy for a Master’s Degree Form](http://www.uncsu.edu/graduateschool/forms)

- Been admitted to a degree program.
- Completed at least twelve (12) credit hours (600 level courses in the MBA program) but not more than eighteen (18) credit hours of graduate study at Fayetteville State University, with a GPA of 3.0 or higher at the time of application for admission to candidacy.
- An advisor assigned by the department.
- An approved program of study.

**Continuous Enrollment Requirements**

Students enrolled in any graduate program must maintain satisfactory progress toward the degree. Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average in all graduate courses. Students who do not maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 will be withdrawn from the University. Students are expected to achieve a satisfactory grade ("A" or "B") in all course work attempted for graduate credit. Students who receive three (3) "C" grades or one (1) "F" or "U" grade in any course(s) will be withdrawn from the University. When special circumstances warrant, students may appeal withdrawal by petitioning the Graduate Council. The student should seek the support of the department chair and dean of the school or college, and forwarded to the Graduate School Dean. The petition will be forwarded to the Rules and Policies Committee and to the Graduate Council for a decision.

“The preparation of knowledgeable, reflective, and caring educational professionals to support student learning and family participation in a diverse, technological and global society.”

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