

2023-2024

EPP Master's Performance Report

Fayetteville State University



North Carolina Department of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Overview of Master's Program

The College of Education at Fayetteville State University offers two master's degree programs: the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) and the Master of Education (M.Ed.). The M.A.T. program is designed for individuals with a non-education bachelor's degree who aspire to become licensed teachers, offering pathways in various teaching areas. The M.Ed. program is intended for licensed teachers seeking professional growth or leadership positions, with concentrations available in different education fields. Both programs emphasize evidence-based practices, technology integration, cultural competency, and data-driven decision-making. The faculty members provide rigorous instruction and mentorship, while field experiences and culminating projects enable practical application and advanced competencies. Fayetteville State University's College of Education aims to produce highly skilled educators prepared to make a positive impact in the field of education.

Master of Education (M.Ed.)

The Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree program offered by Fayetteville State University (FSU) provides candidates with the opportunity to pursue a graduate degree aligned with the North Carolina Standards for Graduate Teacher Candidates. The program covers thirteen teaching fields, including Elementary Education (with specializations in early childhood, math, literacy, and science), Middle Grades Education (math, science, language arts), Secondary Education 9-

12 (biology, comprehensive science, and math), Reading Education, and Special Education (learning disabilities, behavioral and emotional disabilities, mental disabilities).

Candidates interested in the M.Ed. program must meet specific requirements to be eligible for admission. These requirements include holding a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, having an overall minimum GPA of 2.7 (with a preferred GPA of 3.0) on a 4.0 scale for all undergraduate coursework, or a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in the last 60 hours of study (including up to 12 hours of graduate study). Applicants are also required to provide scores from either the GRE general section or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) taken within the last five years, although these tests are not mandatory for applicants with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above in their baccalaureate or master's degree from an accredited institution.

Additionally, applicants must submit three letters of recommendation, a resume, a written essay outlining their graduate educational goals and professional objectives and hold an "A" level initial teaching license. These requirements ensure that candidates for the M.Ed. program possess the necessary qualifications, academic background, and dedication to pursue advanced studies in education and further their professional growth as educators. The M.Ed. integrates candidates' specialized knowledge, background experiences, and individual needs with activities and curricula that are broad-based, coherent, theoretical, and intellectually challenging. A major goal of the M.Ed. program is to produce knowledgeable and reflective teachers who are capable of self-analysis and who have dispositions for continued professional growth and lifelong learning. The main priority of the program is to assist licensed teachers in improving their instructional strategies for enhancing the learning of all K-12 students so that they can achieve at high levels.

The M.Ed. program at FSU offers a comprehensive curriculum consisting of 30-33 credit hours. The program encompasses a required core, specialized core courses, field/clinical experiences, and an Advanced Applied Product of Learning. The core courses delve into various essential aspects, including understanding and addressing the needs of diverse student populations, teaching as a process, research skills to solve educational problems, and leadership skills with a focus on effective data analysis, teaching/learning practices, and collaborative activities.

Field/clinical experiences are integrated into both the core and specialty courses, providing students with hands-on opportunities to apply their learning in real educational settings. As part of the EDUC 698 Advanced Applied Product of Learning and Practicum course, students engage in a capstone project called the Leadership Collaboration Project (LCP), which is completed through Taskstream. The LCP aims to deepen students' knowledge of research-based professional practice, enhance their professional leadership skills through sharing best practices, and foster professional reflection.

In addition, M.Ed. candidates participate in a Field Experience during EDUC 698, where they apply their content knowledge and reflect on theories, methods, and skills emphasized in previous coursework. This supervised field experience involves teaching K-12 students or taking on a Teacher Leadership Specialist role, such as an Instructional Coach, in an educational setting. It provides a clinical context for the completion, presentation, and evaluation of the program's exit criteria, which include an advanced professional webfolio and an action research project.

By integrating a comprehensive curriculum, field/clinical experiences, and a capstone project, the M.Ed. program at Fayetteville State University equips candidates with the knowledge, skills, and practical experiences necessary to excel as educational professionals, whether in teaching roles or in teacher leadership positions.

Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.)

The Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree program offered by Fayetteville State University provides individuals with an opportunity to obtain an initial teaching license in various areas, including Birth - Kindergarten, Elementary Education, Middle Grades 6-9 (mathematics, science, language arts, social studies), Secondary Education Grades 9-12 (biology, English, mathematics, social studies), and Specialized Subjects K-12 (art, health and physical education, music, Spanish). The M.A.T. program is tailored to each candidate's academic background and typically ranges from 30 to 33 semester hours. The curriculum of both the M.A.T. and M.Ed. programs aligns with the Common Core and the NC Essential Standards to meet contemporary educational needs. Completion of an M.A.T. program leads to the initial Class A professional educator's license.

Prospective students seeking initial level licensure must hold a bachelor's degree or be employed as a North Carolina Residency teacher. To enroll in the M.A.T. program, applicants should have an overall minimum GPA of 2.7 (3.0 preferred) on a 4.0 scale for their undergraduate coursework or have completed 6-9 credit hours of transferable Professional Development Student coursework with a minimum grade of 3.0 or higher. Additionally, applicants should have completed 15-24 hours of prerequisite concentration courses before applying for the "A" level license. The specific required courses are determined by comparing the applicant's previous college transcripts with the concentration area requirements for the "A" level license. Some students may need to take additional undergraduate concentration area coursework or achieve passing scores on specialty content area examinations mandated by the North Carolina State Board of Education (NCSBE) to fulfill licensure requirements. Students are required to address any academic deficiencies in their chosen subject areas before enrolling in graduate methods courses and clinical experience courses.

In addition to meeting the academic criteria, applicants must submit three letters of recommendation. These admission requirements ensure that candidates entering the M.A.T. program have the necessary qualifications, commitment, and potential to become effective educators.

Special Features of Master's Program

The M.Ed. and M.A.T. degree programs offered by the College of Education (COE) have several notable features that enhance the learning experience for students. These features include a comprehensive core, a specialized core, a diversified delivery system, and a capstone activity.

The comprehensive core is specifically designed for licensed teachers and aligns with the North Carolina Standards for Graduate Teacher Candidates and the National Board for Professional

Teaching Standards. It focuses on addressing the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for advanced licensed teachers. Within the comprehensive core, candidates deepen their understanding of contemporary issues in education, such as characteristics of diverse learners, assessment and data-driven instruction, research-based instructional strategies, curriculum planning, diversity, technology integration, and advanced studies in human development and learning communities.

The COE has consistently updated its courses to ensure they remain relevant and effective. For example, the core courses EDUC 610 Planning & Implementing Instruction for Diverse Learners and EDUC 630 Advanced Educational Psychology include assignments that assist teachers in developing and implementing culturally relevant curriculum, with a focus on working with children from military families. Additionally, these courses provide opportunities for advanced candidates to conduct case studies, apply Human Development Theory and Practice, and develop action plans to address teaching or instructional coaching challenges. Furthermore, the COE includes topics related to meeting the needs of students who are bilingual, multilingual, and English Language Learners (ELL) students in courses such as READ 552 Teaching Literacy Across Content Areas and READ 605 Investigations in the Teaching of Reading.

All licensure areas within the COE require field/clinical experiences, providing candidates with opportunities to engage with the university's immediate and extended communities and serve as valuable resources for PK-12 school districts. The program utilizes various instructional delivery methods, including content tests, web-based instruction, online and hybrid courses, face-to-face classes, hyflex (virtually synchronous) sessions, and evening classes to accommodate the needs of candidates.

A key requirement for all M.Ed. candidates is the completion of a culminating product of learning, which includes a Leadership and Collaboration Project (LCP). Through the LCP, candidates conduct action research and/or case studies, reflect on their practices, present research findings, and provide a variety of artifacts that demonstrate their advanced competencies aligned with the NC Standards for Graduate Teacher Candidates. This capstone experience allows candidates to integrate their knowledge and practice of core competencies and specialty area courses.

Starting in fall 2023, the M.A.T. program will be offered as a fully online degree program, providing greater flexibility and accessibility for students. Additionally, Fayetteville State University has been selected as a partner institution for the NC Teaching Fellows Program, a prestigious program that recruits, prepares, and supports students pursuing education degrees in science, math or special education. Teaching Fellows at FSU will receive forgivable loans of up to \$4,125 per semester if they commit to teaching in science, math or special education fields. This program will provide financial support to Residency teachers who apply and are accepted into the university's program and receive the NC Teaching Fellowship.

Furthermore, the COE was awarded a US Department of Education Title VII-Part A HBCU Master's Degree Program Grant in October 2017. This grant, known as the HBCU STEM Scholars Program: HBCU-MD Improving Access to Targeted Programs Grant, has assisted FSU in increasing the number of underrepresented and/or low-income students pursuing and earning a master's degree in a STEM teaching discipline. The grant provides scholarships, research and conference presentation opportunities, and academic support to assist candidates in achieving success in graduate programs in STEM teaching disciplines.

These initiatives and grants demonstrate the COE's commitment to providing high-quality education programs that address contemporary needs, offer diverse learning opportunities, and support students' professional growth and success.