

The Master in the Art of Teaching Degree in Multi-Categorical Special Education

Lander University recognizes the needs of teachers and other professional educators to continue advanced studies beyond the bachelor's degree level. The Master in the Art of Teaching (MAT) in Multi-Categorical Special Education program is designed for the student who has graduated from a regionally accredited college or university with a baccalaureate degree and is seeking a Master's level degree in Multi-Categorical Special Education. It provides a path for either individuals already working in South Carolina's public schools to become certified in a high-need area through the SC CREATE (Centers for the Re-education and Advancement of Teachers in Special Education) program OR other individuals who have a desire to become highly effective special educators, but are unable to pursue this except in an online program.

Admission

There are two major steps in the process for the The Master in the Art of Teaching Degree in Multi-Categorical Special Education Degree Program: initial admission to program and admission to clinical practice.

- 1. Initial Admission to Program** All applicants must have earned a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university and submit official transcripts of all institutions attended to the Office of Admissions.

Candidates with an undergraduate cumulative GPA below 3.0 on a 4.0 scale may be admitted provisionally. Provisional admission is contingent upon review of the undergraduate transcript by the student advisor or program coordinator.

Applicants must complete an application for admission.

Note: Students must meet initial admission requirements to the graduate program in order to be eligible for graduate departmental scholarships.

- 2. Admission to Clinical Practice** Students must complete an application to the South Carolina Department of Education for certification (which requires fingerprinting and background-check approval).

Students must complete an application to the Lander University Department of Teacher Education for admission to Clinical Practice and be accepted by the semester prior to the student-teaching experience.

Students must complete specified courses in the MAT program with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Two grades of "C" in any graduate courses preclude continuation in the program. Any grade lower than a "C" must be replaced by retaking the course with a grade of "B" or better before advancing to the next course in the program of studies. Failure to earn a replacement grade of "B" or better means discontinuation in the program. If participating through the CREATE program, candidates must maintain active enrollment in its state-funded scholarship program.

- 3. Program Completion** To complete requirements for the MAT program, students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale on all graduate work. They must also successfully complete their student teaching experience and demonstrate competence with the seven learner outcomes of the unit's conceptual framework.

Students must successfully pass the required concentration-specific Praxis II examination.

Students must earn a "B" or better in EDUC 680 Field-Based Individual Activities, EDUC 681 Field-Based Individual Activities, and EDUC 699 Clinical Practice.

All coursework for the MAT must be completed within a period of 6 years.

Degree Requirements

- 1. Admission to Clinical Practice.**
- 2. Courses.** Completion of 51 credit hours of graduate work. A student must complete an approved program of study and have no more than two courses with grades of "C" and have a GPA of 3.0 or above.
- Students must successfully pass the required concentration-specific Praxis II examination.
- Students must earn a "B" or better in EDUC 680 Field-Based Individual Activities, EDUC 681 Field-Based Individual Activities, and EDUC 699 Clinical Practice.

5. Students must successfully complete their student-teaching experience and demonstrate competence with the seven learner outcomes of the unit's conceptual framework.
6. All work for the MAT degree must be completed within a period of six years.

Program of Study

The program of study leading to the Master of Education in Teaching and Learning degree consists of course work and other learning activities in the following areas *at the 600 level*:

- EDUC 631 Tools for Developing and Using Technology-Based Resources (3 hours)
- EDUC 656 Behavior and Classroom Management (3 hours)
- EDUC 664 Principals of Teaching (3 hours)
- EDUC 676 Assessment of Diverse Learners, P-12 (3 hours)
- EDUC 678 Introduction to Exceptional Children, P-K-12 (3 hours)
- EDUC 680 Field-Based Individualized Activities (1 hour)
- EDUC 681 Field-Based Individualized Activities (2 hours)
- EDUC 699 Clinical Practice (9 hours)
- READ 610 Foundations of Reading (3 hours)
- READ 612 Assessing and Teaching Reading to Needs (3 hours)
- READ 614 Instructional Practices for Teaching Literacy (3 hours)
- READ 655 Methods of Content Area Reading and Writing (3 hours)
- SPED 630 Integrated Early Childhood and Integrated Elementary Curriculum and Instruction for Diverse Learners (3 hours)
- SPED 640 Integrated Secondary Curriculum and Instruction for Diverse Learners (3 hours)
- SPED 651 Characteristics of Diverse Learners (3 hours)
- SPED 653 Mathematics Pedagogy for Diverse Learners (3 hours)

Senior Enrollment in Master of Education Graduate Classes

Lander University undergraduate seniors meeting the accepted academic standard for graduate work (3.75 cumulative grade point average or better) are eligible to request enrollment in graduate level MAT classes. Enrollment of seniors in any MAT graduate course is subject to approval by the department offering the course and the Dean of the College of Education. The total course workload for the semester must not exceed 18 hours, and the total graduate credits earned by seniors must not exceed 9 credit hours. The credit and quality points associated with senior enrollment in graduate courses will not be part of the undergraduate record. Graduate hours earned by seniors must be in excess of the requirements for their undergraduate degrees; and students may request that these courses be included as part of their graduate program if they are subsequently admitted to Lander University's MAT graduate program within 6 years after graduation. Courses may not be taken at the 600 level if their 400-level counterparts are required for the undergraduate degree in the same academic major as the proposed graduate degree.

Procedure for Approval

Approval by the Dean of the College of Education is required prior to registration in any MAT graduate course. Only candidates who have demonstrated the capacity to meet the academic rigor of graduate level courses will be approved. Senior enrollment request forms are located at the Registrar's office.