

Master of Arts in Teaching-Secondary (MATS) Checklist (Distance/Online campus)

The MATS program is a post-baccalaureate program for individuals who wish to prepare for a career as a professional educator. The MATS program of study consists of 30 semester hours of graduate-level coursework and qualifies individuals for licensure in a secondary teaching field of biology, chemistry, English, mathematics, physical education, physics, social studies, or foreign language. The curriculum includes courses in classroom management, assessment, technology, curriculum organization, instructional methodology, reading/writing across the curriculum, teaching children with exceptionalities, and a teaching internship. The program is field-intensive and grounded in clinical practice carried out in a secondary public-school setting.

*****We are not admitting students living in the state of Georgia or Hawaii.

The MATS degree is a high-quality response to Mississippi's need for strong teachers. Through the program, students will be eligible for the following:

- **3-year Class A non-renewable license** after completion of EDS 8243, EDS 6403, and EDX 8173, passing scores on the Praxis CORE or 21 ACT or 3.0 GPA on the last 60 hours, and passing Specialty Area Exam scores in your content area. If you have already completed a master's degree, you will not be able to upgrade your license to master's level with the 3-year license.
- **5-year Class A renewable license** after receiving a 3-year Class A non-renewable license and completing Internship I and Internship II over a period of two semesters. If you have already completed a master's degree, you will be able to upgrade your license to master's level after your 5-year license is issued.
- **5-year Class AA renewable license** after completing the MATS degree program (including coursework and a capstone experience).

* **ALL students (degree-seeking and licensure-only) MUST** be admitted to the MATS program to be recommended for licensure. Students must also secure a full-time teaching position in a public school before registering for Internship I and II.

Requirements for Enrolling in the MATS Program at MSU:

Please contact Deana Cumberland at 662.325.0366 or dcumberland@colled.msstate.edu prior to beginning the application process.

Steps 1-6 must be completed by

- **December 1** to be considered for spring admission.
- **May 1** to be considered for summer admission.
- **August 1** to be considered for fall admission.

____ 1. Submit an online application to the Office of the Graduate School at **grad.msstate.edu**.

- Select the **Master of Arts in Teaching Secondary** for your program of interest.
- Choose **Distance/Online** for your campus.
- **Three recommendations.** The Graduate School will send emails to the three people (supervisors, employers, professors) you list as references as soon as you submit your application. Please contact your recommenders when you submit your application.
- **Statement of Purpose.** The Statement of Purpose should be approximately one page explaining why you want to become a secondary teacher.
- **Official transcripts** must be submitted to the Graduate School, If you earned a bachelor's degree at MSU you do not have to send a transcript for that degree.

○ **Electronic Transcripts:**

Transcripts should be sent to: gradapps@grad.msstate.edu Mississippi State University, Graduate School.

○ **Paper Transcripts Address (USPS):**

*Mississippi State University
The Office of the Graduate School
P.O. Box G
Mississippi State, MS 39762*

○ **Physical Street Address (for DHL, Fed Ex, UPS, DHS, etc.):**

*Mississippi State University
The Office of the Graduate School
175 President Circle
116 Allen Hall
Mississippi State, MS 39762*

- **Application fee.** The application will not be processed until the \$60 application fee is paid.
 - *If you begin an application and forget your login and/or password, **do not begin another application.** Please contact the Office of the Graduate School at 662.325.7400 for assistance.*

*** Contact your references shortly after submitting your application to ensure they have received the proper forms.

*** Please note that your application will not be considered until all forms have been submitted and your application fee has been paid.

____ 2. Hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning.

____ 3. Have a minimum GPA of 2.75 (on a 4.0 scale) based on the last 60 hours of bachelor's work.

4. Meet the Mississippi score requirements on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators tests (CORE), **or** have a composite ACT score of at least 21, or have a 3.0 GPA on your last 60 hours. MATS staff will evaluate your transcript to see if you meet the GPA requirements if you don't have a 21 on the ACT or passing Praxis Core scores. **Please make sure to have your scores sent to MSU and MDE.**

Praxis Core Area Examination Test Codes	Required Score
Reading - 5713	156
Writing – 5723	162
Mathematics – 5733 (beginning Sept. 1, 2019)	130
Combined Test – 5752	Score reported by individual tests

5. Meet the Mississippi score requirements on the Praxis II Specialty Area Examination in the licensure area. Please make sure to have your scores sent to MSU and the Mississippi Department of Education.

Area Examination	Test Code		Required Score on tests taken after 9/1/13	
	test code		Score begins 9-1-22	
Biology	5236		148	
Chemistry	5246		140	
English Language Arts	5038		167	
Mathematics	5165		152	
Physical Educ.	5091		145	
Physics	5266		140	
Social Studies	5081	Beginning 9-1-2025 5581	Old Score	New score begins 9-1-2025
			150	174
Foreign Language tests			*Contact MATS office for information	

For information on the Praxis Series assessments:

- Visit <http://www.ets.org/praxis>
- Call 1-800-772-9476 for a customer service representative

- _____ 6. Complete a background check through <https://discover.castlebranch.com/>. You will click on *Place Order. Once prompted, you will enter Package Code MI43. When you complete the process, please submit a copy of the confirmation page to Stephanie Etheridge, setheridge@colled.msstate.edu. Your application cannot be sent to the faculty until this is done.

Important Notes:

- Admission packets are forwarded from the Office of the Graduate School to TEAL (Teacher Education and Leadership) upon completion. Secondary education faculty use a committee review process to admit teacher candidates to the MATS program. Once a decision has been made, applicants are notified of their admission status.
- For students seeking financial assistance, please note that provisionally admitted students may not be eligible for financial aid.
- Endorsements added to a 3-year non-renewable license are allowed by the Mississippi Department of Education. However, problems arise when students are hired in a position based on an endorsement rather than on their initial licensure area. The content methods course and Internships I and II must be completed in the content area in which the student was admitted.
- All students admitted to the MATS program must complete the TEAL Graduate Student Orientation.
- Graduation from the MATS program requires successful completion of all coursework and passing scores on the PLT, which is completed during the last 6 hours of coursework.
- Students must maintain a minimum of a 3.0 GPA for all graduate coursework. One class may be repeated with a grade below a C. Two grades of C or lower will result in dismissal from the program.
- Licensure requirements are subject to change by the Mississippi Department of Education. Students in the MATS program must meet the licensure requirements in effect at the time of recommendation for licensure.
- Completion of the MATS Orientation. Students will be enrolled in the Orientation through Canvas after an admission decision is made.

MATS Courses: 30 Semester Hours

***Online courses include non-refundable distance fees**

Initial Licensure Courses

EDS 8243 Advanced Planning and Managing of Learning (3 credit hours)

An advanced study of variables contributing to efficiency and competency in planning for teacher-learner activities and the creation and maintenance of positive learning environments.

EDS 6403 Evaluation in Secondary Schools (3 credit hours)

A study of critical assessment practices in secondary education through the use of data to inform instruction. Particular attention will be given to discipline-specific pedagogy for the evaluation of student learning in secondary classrooms.

EDX 8173 Special Education in the Regular Classroom (3 credit hours)

Provides a greater understanding of children with disabilities who may be in the regular classroom and suggests methods and techniques for teaching students with disabilities in the regular classroom.

Core Courses

EDS 8103 Adv. Methodologies in Middle and Secondary Education (3 credit hours)

Advanced study of pedagogical methods and teaching practices.

EDS 8623 Principles of Effective Instruction (3 credit hours)

An examination of the theories, trends, best practices, issues, challenges, and complexities pertinent to teaching and learning in secondary schools.

RDG 8653 Teaching Reading in the Secondary Schools (3 credit hours)

A study of reading problems of middle and upper-level students. A study of technology, materials, and methods used in developmental reading for secondary students.

EDS 8613 Middle and Secondary School Curriculum (3 credit hours)

Principles of curriculum construction as they apply to the middle and secondary schools for the various subject areas.

Courses Requiring a Teaching Position

EDS 6633 Math Education Pedagogy (3 credit hours)

A comprehensive examination of the effective practices for teaching and evaluating mathematics students in the secondary setting.

EDS 6643 Social Studies Education Pedagogy (3 credit hours)

A comprehensive examination of effective practices for teaching and evaluating social studies in secondary education.

EDS 6653 Science Education Pedagogy (3 credit hours)

A comprehensive examination of the effective practices for teaching and evaluating science for middle and secondary students.

EDS 6673 Language Arts Education Pedagogy (3 credit hours)

A comprehensive examination of the effective practices for teaching and evaluating English/Language Arts students in secondary education.

EDS 8883 Secondary Internship I (3 credit hours)

Supervised observation and directed teaching in the respective fields of endorsement.

EDS 8893 Secondary Internship II (3 credit hours)

Supervised observation and directed teaching in the respective fields of endorsement.

Note: A full-time special education teaching position in a Mississippi public school must be secured to complete internship I and II. Anyone teaching outside of Mississippi must discuss that with Deana Cumberland upon admission to the MATS program.

MATS Program Requirements for Math Endorsement

Any 18 hours of coursework with a math prefix (College Algebra and higher) will meet requirements for a middle school math endorsement. The middle school endorsement does not allow you to teach Algebra or any higher math. The secondary internship cannot be completed in math with the middle school endorsement. A secondary math endorsement requires passing scores on Praxis 5165 or the classes listed below. A grade of C or higher is required in all math classes.

Calculus - MA 1713 Calculus I **and** MA 1723 Calculus II

Advanced Algebra Course- MA 3113 Introduction to Linear Algebra

Statistics - MA/ST 3123 Introduction to Statistical Inference

Geometry - MA 3463 Foundations of Geometry

Foundations - MA 3053 Foundations of Mathematics

Methods - EDS 3633 Secondary Mathematics Education