

## 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.

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

- 3-year Class A non-renewable license after completion of EDS 8243, EDS 6403 and EDX 8173. 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 comprehensive exam)
- Master of Arts in Teaching Degree with a passing score on the comprehensive exam

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

### Requirements for Enrolling in the MATS Program at MSU:

*Once you have received your admission decision, please contact Susan Steward by phone at 662.325.0527 or email [ssteward@colled.msstate.edu](mailto:ssteward@colled.msstate.edu) prior to beginning the enrollment process.*

**Steps 1-8 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** The online application must include:
  - Select **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 from all community colleges and/or universities you have attended. If you earned a bachelor's degree at MSU you do not have to send a transcript for that degree.
  - **Application fee.** The application will not be processed until the \$60 application fee is paid.
2. Hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning.
3. Have a minimum GPA of 2.75 (based on a 4.0 scale) 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. 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 Cores scores.

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

**\*\*\*Passing scores on the Math Core 5732 will be accepted by the Mississippi Department of Education through August 31, 2021.**

- 5.** Meet the Mississippi score requirements on the Praxis II Specialty Area Examination in the licensure area. **The test must be taken at least 3 weeks prior to the admission deadline for scores to be received by MSU.**

Area Examination/Test Code	Required Score on tests taken after 9/1/13	
	test code	score
Biology	5235	150
Chemistry	5245	151
Computer Science	5652	149
English Language Arts	5038	167
Mathematics	5165	152
Physical Educ.	5091	145
Physics	5265	139
Social Studies	5081	150
Foreign Language tests		*Contact MATS office for information

- 6.** Core scores and Praxis II Specialty Area Examination scores should be sent to MSU from ETS and submit a copy to [ssteward@colled.msstate.edu](mailto:ssteward@colled.msstate.edu). Applicants should also print a copy of their scores from the ETS website for their personal records.

For information on the Praxis Series assessments:

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

- 7.** Complete a background check through <https://mycb.castlebranch.com/Enter Package Code MI43>, and submit a copy to: Susan Steward, [ssteward@colled.msstate.edu](mailto:ssteward@colled.msstate.edu)

- 8.** Completion of the MATS Orientation Quiz and Self-Assessment Quiz of Professional Dispositions and submission of a signed Mississippi State University College of Education Dispositions form. You will be enrolled in the Orientation and Self-Assessment through Canvas and the Dispositions form to sign will be sent to you upon being admission to the program.

## **Important Notes:**

- 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 Internship 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 orientation.
- Graduation from the MATS program requires the successful completion of all coursework and passing scores on the comprehensive exam. Students are allowed to repeat one class if they make a grade below a C.

## **MATS Courses**

### **30 Semester Hours**

**\*\*\*Students who choose to take online courses are subject 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 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.

Understanding the process of integrating technology into instructional practice.

Research-based methods for the integration of technology to enhance learning.

##### **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 6633/6643/6653/6673 Secondary Methods of Teaching** (3 credit hours)

A comprehensive examination of the effective practices for teaching and evaluating a subject matter in secondary education. ***This course requires a clinical practice/fieldwork experience.***

### **Internship I** (3 credit hours)

Supervised observation and directed teaching in respective field of endorsement. ***This course requires a clinical practice/fieldwork experience.***

### **Internship II** (3 credit hours)

Supervised observation and directed teaching in respective field of endorsement. ***This course requires a clinical practice/fieldwork experience.***

**NOTE:** Candidates must secure a full-time classroom teaching position in a Mississippi public school. Candidates must complete the content methods course, Internship I and Internship II in the content area they declare to be their concentration area.

### **Program Notes:**

#### **MATS Program Requirements for Math Endorsement**

Any 18 hours of course work 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. For a secondary math endorsement, the following classes must make up the 21 hours. A grade of C or higher is required in all math classes.

**Calculus** - MA 1713 Calculus I - 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