**Master of Arts in Teaching- Special Education (MATX) Checklist**

The MATX is a post-baccalaureate program designed for individuals who are seeking an alternate route to become a highly qualified special educator.  The MATX program of study consists of 10 graduate level courses that are offered completely online.  All participants in the program will receive a mild/ moderate special education endorsement on their teaching license.  Before participants can enroll in the first internship course, they must secure a teaching position in a Mississippi public school as a special education teacher and provide a copy of their employment contract.

**\*\*\*\*\*\*We are not currently able to admit students living in the state of Georgia.**

**Requirements for Enrolling in the MATX Program at Mississippi State University:**

*Please contact Elizabeth Palmer at 662.325.0366 or* [*ejh121@msstate.edu*](mailto:ejh121@msstate.edu)

**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**.

* Select **Master of Arts Teaching Special Education Alternate Route** 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 special education teacher.
* **Official transcripts** must be submitted to the Graduate School from all community colleges and/or universities you have attended. (if bachelor’s degree was not earned at MSU)
* **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, we have received your Praxis scores, and your application fee has been paid.

1. Hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning.
2. Have a minimum GPA of 2.75 (based on a 4.0 scale) on the last 60 credit hours of baccalaureate work.
3. 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. MATX 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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Praxis Core**  **Area Examination Test Codes** | **Required Score** |
| **Reading - 5713** | 156 |
| **Writing - 5723** | 162 |
| **Mathematics – 5732 (before Sept. 1, 2019)**  **Mathematics – 5733 (beginning Sept. 1, 2019)** | 150  130 |
| **Combined Test - 5752** | Score reported by individual tests |

**\*\*\* The Praxis I (PPST) tests are no longer accepted by the Mississippi Department of Education.**

The COVID test waivers have expired. Students must meet all text requirements.

1. Meet the Mississippi score requirements on the Praxis II Specialty Area Examination in Special Education (5354). **The test must be taken at least 3 weeks prior to admission deadline for scores to be received by MSU.**
2. Core scores and Praxis II Specialty Area Examination scores should be sent to MSU from ETS and submit a copy to [ejh121@msstate.edu](mailto:ejh121@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

1. Complete a background check through **https://mycb.castlebranch.com**. **Enter Package Code MI43**. Please send the confirmation that the background check is in progress to Elizabeth Palmer at [ejh121@msstate.edu](mailto:ejh121@msstate.edu). Your application cannot be sent to the faculty until this is done.
2. Completion of the MATX 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 admitted to the program.

**Important Notes:**

* Admission packets are forwarded from the Office of the Graduate School to CISE upon completion. CISE faculty uses a committee review process to admit teacher candidates to the MATX 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 eligible for financial aid. Aid may be available after full program admission.
* All students admitted to the MATX program must complete the CISE Graduate Student Orientation.
* Graduation from the MATX program requires the successful completion of all coursework and passing scores on the comprehensive examination. The comprehensive examination is taken during the last 6 hours of coursework or in the terminal semester. **MATX Required Coursework - 30 Semester Hours**

\*Online courses include a nonrefundable distance fee.

**The first three classes listed must be taken for licensure before the internship begins:**

**EDX 6193 Advanced Planning for Special Education (3 credit hours)** A study of variables contributing to efficiency and competency in planning for teacher-learner activities and the creation and maintenance of positive learning environments.

**EDX 6813 Introduction to Assessment in Special Education (3 credit hours)** A course to study measurement and evaluation of learning activities and achievement of elementary school pupils and high school students; standardized tests; test construction; statistical techniques.

**EDX 8173 Special Education in the Regular Classroom (3 credit hours)** Provides a greater understanding of the handicapped child who may be in the regular classroom and suggests methods and techniques for teaching the handicapped student in the regular classroom.

**EDX 6173. Contingency Management with Exceptional Children. (3 credit hours)** A study of the components of contingency management with emphasis on application in the field with exceptional children.

**EDX 8013. Intro to Teaching Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disorders. (3 credit hours)** Characteristics of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Theories, principles and methods for teaching individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**EDX 8023. Intro to teaching students with learning disabilities. (3 credit hours)**

Characteristics of students with learning disabilities. Theories, principles and methods for teaching individuals with learning disabilities.

**EDX 8053. Introduction to Teaching Individuals with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders.**

**(3 credit hours)** The curriculum, methods, principles and problems of working with individuals with emotional disabilities.

**EDX 8233 Special Education Internship I. (3) Three hours clinical instruction.** (Co-Requisite EDX 6173; prerequisites: Admission to MATX. EDX 8173, EDX 6813 and EDX 6193). First semester of directed teaching in a special education classroom.

**EDX 8243 Special Education Internship II. (3) Three hours clinical instruction.** (Prerequisites: Admission to MATX degree program. EDX 8233). Second semester of directed teaching in a special education classroom.

**Reading Pedagogy Elective** (RDG 8113, RDG 8123, RDG 8133 or RDG 8653)