Mathematics for Educators (MA)

This program is offered by the School of Education.

Program Description

The faculty strives to consistently demonstrate outstanding teaching, with the hope that our graduates will be among the most talented and capable teachers in the schools. We want our students to study mathematics in an interesting, growth-producing environment so that they will always be enthusiastic learners and teachers of mathematics.

All of our courses are designed specifically for the mathematics teacher, grades 7-14. In each course, students will develop a deeper understanding of central ideas in mathematics that are relevant to their own teaching. They will increase their power to employ mathematical reasoning and problem-solving techniques, and they will experience learning mathematics in ways that stimulate their imagination and intelligence.

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This program is offered at the St. Louis home campus.

Requirements

Mathematics students must meet the requirements for an emphasis in community college mathematics, secondary mathematics or middle school mathematics. Upon completing 9 credit hours with a grade of B or better, students are required to Advance to Candidacy. Refer to the Mathematics for Educator's ATC form and the section on ATC in this catalog for more information.

During their penultimate semester, and at least one academic year following their advancement to candidacy, students need to register for MTHC 5900 Final Reflections. This is a no-tuition, zero-credit-hour course in which students write an essay describing how they have changed as a result of participating in the program.

Emphasis in Community College Mathematics

This emphasis is designed for community college teachers who wish to strengthen their ability to articulate mathematical arguments, increase their general problem solving abilities, and further develop their perspective and understanding of mathematics.

This emphasis requires 33 credit hours above MTHC 5200, and a GPA of at least 3.75.

Emphasis in Secondary Mathematics

This emphasis is designed for secondary mathematics teachers who wish to deepen their understanding and broaden their perspective of mathematics. Courses developed for this emphasis include most mathematics courses numbered above MTHC 5200.

This emphasis requires 33 credit hours of graduate mathematics courses with at least 21 of these credit hours above MTHC 5200, and a GPA of at least 3.5.

Emphasis in Middle School Mathematics

This emphasis is designed for mathematics teachers of grades 5-8. Those choosing this emphasis will study a range of engaging mathematical ideas that can be adapted for their own classroom use. Relevant courses include those numbered between MTHC 5000 and MTHC 5200, as well as an occasional course numbered above MTHC 5200.

This emphasis requires 33 credit hours of graduate math courses, including at least one math course that incorporates technology, as well as a GPA of 3.25 or higher.

The following courses do not meet area-of-emphasis requirements for any of the emphases: MTHC 5210, MTHC 5410.

Admission

Students who are interested in applying to this degree program should also see the Admission Section of this catalog for general requirements.

Admission Requirements

- Receipt of official transcripts from the baccalaureate granting institution.
- Undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Essay: "Why I Teach". If you do not currently teach, then describe why you want to be a teacher.
- The student's mathematical background needs to be commensurate with the emphasis he or she is seeking. In particular, the secondary and community college emphases require (roughly) the equivalent of an undergraduate mathematics major. The middle school emphasis requires successful completion of the undergraduate calculus sequence.

Send all admission materials to:

Office of Admission
Webster University
470 E. Lockwood Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63119

Completed application files will be reviewed by the Mathematics for Educators Program Coordinator.

Advancement to Candidacy

Upon successful completion of 9 credit hours of MA Mathematics for Educators courses, all degree-seeking students are required to apply for advancement to candidacy. For specific details please see your advisor.

Transfer of Credit

Students selecting either the middle school or secondary emphasis may transfer up to 6 credit hours of courses in mathematics or mathematics education provided that the courses are part of a graduate degree program at the host university and that the grades earned for the courses are B or higher.

Students selecting the Community College emphasis may transfer up to 6 credit hours of courses in mathematics provided that the courses are part of the host university’s graduate degree program in mathematics and that the grades earned for the courses are B or higher.