Middle School Education (MAT)

This program is offered by the School of Education, and is only available at the St. Louis home campus.

Program Description

The MAT in middle school education degree program at Webster University, provides candidates with a strong foundation in content knowledge and early adolescent development. It is centered around contemporary design-based research principles with a focus on how students learn within inquiry based environments. This degree emphasizes practices associated with inquiry based learning, differentiated instruction and culturally responsive teaching.

This graduate degree program is designed to prepare candidates to meet initial Missouri teacher certification in middle school education in one of the following areas:

1. Language Arts
2. Mathematics
3. Science
4. Social Studies

Learning Outcomes

The goals of the MAT in middle school education are to cultivate graduates who are:

- Knowledgeable of the history of middle school education, characteristics of students in early adolescence and principles and foundations underlying best practices.
- Proficient in designing, adapting and modifying effective assessment plans, instructional strategies and curricula and/or intervention plans based on current research regarding cognitive, social and emotional development of students in early adolescence.
- Reflective about their roles as educators to improve learning outcomes, and who collaborate with families and other members of the community to advocate for inclusive and equitable educational opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds.
- Capable of recognizing, valuing and responding to the unique individual abilities and differences of students in early adolescence.

Degree Program Requirements

The following 28 hours of courses and 13 hours of field experiences are required to earn the MAT degree in middle school education. Students are advised that initial teacher certification in middle school education (grades 5-9) may require more hours than are listed for the MAT degree program. Students must consult an advisor in order to obtain a personalized program of study.

Foundations

- CMAT 5000 Teaching in a Diverse Society (3 hours)
- SOCS 5700 Middle School History and Philosophy (3 hours)
- SOCS 5760 Middle School Curriculum & Instruction (3 hours)
- CMAT 5015 Differentiated Instruction and Assessment (3 hours)
- EDTC 5410 In-Service Topics in Educational Technology (1 hour)

Methods

- CMAT 5170 Classroom & Behavioral Management (3 hours)
- COMM 5920 Reading and Writing in the Content Field (3 hours)
- COMM 5199 Teaching Writing (3 hours)
- CM 5905 Reading Assessments and Interventions Grades 6-12 (3 hours)

Content Methods – (based on certification content area) (3 hours)

- COMM 5540 Methods of Teaching Middle School and Secondary English (3 hours)
- MTHT 4450 Middle School Math Methods (3 hours)
- EDUC 4585 Methods for Teaching Middle School Science (3 hours)
- EDUC 4115 Middle School Social Studies Methods (3 hours)

Clinical Experience

Practicum (3 hours)

- CMAT 5100 Practicum Middle School Language Arts (3 hours)
- CMAT 5101 Practicum Middle School Mathematics (3 hours)
- CMAT 5102 Practicum Middle School Science (3 hours)
- CMAT 5103 Practicum Middle School Social Science (3 hours)

Apprentice Teaching

- CMAT 5200 Apprentice Teaching Middle School Language Arts (9 hours)
- or CMAT 5201 Apprentice Teaching Middle School Mathematics (9 hours)
- or CMAT 5202 Apprentice Teaching Middle School Science (9 hours)
- or CMAT 5203 Apprentice Teaching Middle School Social Science (9 hours)
- CMAT 5096 Apprentice Teaching Seminar (1 hour)

Total: 41 hours

All of the above courses are necessary to meet the requirements for Missouri initial teacher certification in middle school education.

Other Certification Requirements

- CMAT 5505 Psychological Foundations of Education (3 hours)
- SPED 5860 Psychology of the Exceptional Child (3 hours)
- Content area courses as required for initial state certification (to be determined in consultation with advisor)

Content Areas

Students choose one of the following content areas in which to seek initial teacher certification. Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 in their content area in order to be recommended for certification.

Language Arts: 24 hours

- 3 hours of Composition
- 6 hours of American Literature
- 6 hours of World Literature
- 3 hours Modern Grammar
- 3 hours of Oral/Interpersonal Communication
- 3 hours Young Adult Literature

Mathematics: 24 hours

- 4-5 hours Calculus I (MATH 1610)
- 4-5 hours Calculus II (MATH 1620)
- 11-13 hours from the following: (to be determined in consultation with advisor)
  - Statistics
  - Geometry
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- Discrete Mathematics

Science: 24 hours
- 4-5 hours Biology with lab
- 4-5 hours Chemistry with lab
- 4-5 hours Physics with lab or Physical Science with lab
- 9-12 hours of coursework addressing:
  - Astronomy
  - Environmental Science
  - Physical Geology
  - Meteorology

Social Science: 24 hours
- 3 hours of Economics
- 3 hours of Geography
- 3 hours American Government
- 6 hours American History (to include 18th, 19th, 20th Century)
- 6 hours World/European History
- 3 hours Young Adult Literature

All of the above courses are required to complete the requirements for initial Missouri teacher certification in the middle school education program.

Admissions
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 transcript from the baccalaureate granting institution.
- Undergraduate cumulative GPA of 2.75.
- Grade of B- or better in college-level mathematics.
- Grade of B- or better in college-level composition.

Send all admissions materials to:
Office of Admission
Webster University
470 E. Lockwood Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63119

Advancement to Candidacy
Advancement to Candidacy (ATC) represents a significant milestone in a candidate’s academic career. Candidates who successfully advance to candidacy have demonstrated mastery of program standards and may continue enrolling in courses to complete their major. In the case of the MAT, ATC means that a student is formally enrolled in the initial teacher certification program.

Advancement to Candidacy occurs provided that a student:
1. Completes 15 hours of graduate credit with grades of B or better (including CMAT 5000)
2. Completes Passport 1
3. Is accepted into the Teacher Certification program (contact the School of Education Teacher Certification Office for more information)
4. Remains in good academic standing and maintains a cumulative GPA of 3.0

After 15 hours of graduate credit, candidates will be restricted from registering in further coursework until advanced to candidacy.

Requirements for Missouri Initial Teacher Certification in Middle School Education (Grades 5-9)

Transcript Evaluation
Students must make available official academic transcripts to the Coordinator of Teacher Certification in the School of Education in order to complete an evaluation of coursework. Based on this transcript evaluation the Coordinator of Teacher Certification will identify the exact number of credit hours that an MAT candidate will require to complete initial teacher certification with respect to Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) requirements. Prior coursework, such as transfer courses and content area courses, will be identified from the students’ transcripts. Using this evaluation, an academic advisor, in conjunction with the Coordinator of Teacher Certification, will prepare a personalized program of study for the student.

Background Checks
Students are required to obtain various annual background checks prior to field experiences. The state requires current fingerprint clearance prior to issuing the teaching certificate.

Certification Hours
To achieve Missouri state certification in middle school education, candidates are required to take more than 28 credit hours (plus 13 credit hours of field experiences).

State Assessments
To obtain a teaching licensure in Missouri, students are required to complete a number of state assessments. State required assessments are administered by designated agencies, and students are required to pay all associated fees. All state assessments are administered in computer based format.

Students must pass the state-required Content Area Examination before Apprentice Teaching Orientation.

Successful completion of the Missouri Pre-Service Teacher Assessment (MoPTA) is required in order to obtain a recommendation for initial teacher certification from Webster University. Such recommendation must be presented to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) by the university in order for a candidate to earn teacher licensure in the state of Missouri.

Application and Eligibility to Middle School Practicum
Registration in Middle School Practicum must be approved electronically by the student’s advisor by September 15 for Spring placement and by February 15 for Fall placement. Applications for practicum are completed TK20. Directions are located on the School of Education website. Late applications will not be accepted. A grade of B or higher is required for successful completion of the practicum.

Application to Apprentice Teaching: Middle School
Successful completion of Apprentice Teaching: Middle School is required to meet the graduation requirements of the MAT in middle school education. Application and registration in CMAT 5092 must be approved electronically by the student’s advisor by September 15 for Spring placement and by February 15 for Fall placement. Applications for apprentice teaching are completed through TK20. Directions are located on the School of Education website. Students who are full time paraprofessionals or teachers in an approved educational setting may be eligible to earn credit for Apprentice Teaching through an assessment process.
Eligibility requirements for acceptance to Apprentice Teaching: Middle School Education

1. Students must have successfully completed all required courses for Missouri initial teacher certification in middle school education
2. Students must have successfully completed Middle School Practicum with a grade of B or higher
3. Students must have passed the state-required Content Area Examination with a qualifying score equal to or greater than the Missouri qualifying score prior to Apprentice Teaching Orientation. Students should talk to their advisor or the teacher certification professionals at Webster University in order to understand how DESE changes are accommodated in their personalized program of study