



Kansas State University's Master of Arts in Teaching

ELEMENTARY

TRACKS 2025-2026



DEAR FUTURE TEACHER

K-State has designed TWO MAT Elementary tracks built specifically for career-changers like you:

- **License-Seeking Track:** For students who pursue the MAT while continuing their current employment and who will request traditional student teaching.
- **Practitioner Track:** For students who pursue the MAT while teaching full-time. Students apply for Limited Elementary Residency Program (LERP) teaching license after admission.

I have included additional information about both of our award-winning, flexible MAT Elementary programs, including FAQs and possible course schedules.

To get started on your application, here are some useful links:

- Begin your application.
- Submit FAFSA.
- Apply for the Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship.
- Find out more about the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program.

Why do people choose K-State?

Affordable. All students pay in-state tuition regardless of residency. More than 70% of MAT students receive scholarships, such as K-State's online scholarships and/or the Kansas Board of Regents' Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship.

Earn While You Learn. Through our Practitioner Track, Kansas students may obtain a restricted license and become full-time teachers while completing their degree requirements. Our License-Seeking Track allows students to continue their current (non-teaching) employment while they pursue their degree.

Exceptional Learning Community. Your peers in the MAT program come from across the country and around the globe, bringing talent, insight, and shared purpose into every conversation.

Flexible and Convenient. MAT students work on their online courses as their schedules allow and may complete their program in as little as 12 months or at their own pace, with student teaching in local schools.

Personalized Coaching. Every MAT student is assigned a GradCat — a master teacher who serves as a mentor, coach, and evaluator from the beginning to end of each course.

Quality. K-State's MAT program is ranked #20 among 313 online education programs evaluated by U.S. News & World Report. The program combines research-based preparation with practical, classroom-based experiences, ensuring graduates are well-prepared.

One Size Does Not Fit All. The MAT recognizes and values your unique strengths, views teaching as a practical and individualized activity, and prepares you for success across a variety of contexts.

In-Demand Everywhere. K-State MAT graduates have the flexibility to launch teaching careers in their own communities — or beyond, with licensure that opens doors nationwide.

On behalf of the MAT students, faculty, and staff, I invite you to join our practical, convenient, and affordable pathway to teaching. Do not hesitate to call or email should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Vontz, Ph.D.

Professor and Director, Master of Arts in Teaching



MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (LICENSE-SEEKING)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS MAT?

The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) opens a pathway to elementary teaching for career changers. Students earn a master's degree and recommendation for a Kansas PreK-6 Initial Teaching License. The master's degree combines rigorous online coursework with field experiences in accredited elementary schools that are convenient to students in the program. Upon completion, students will be able to apply for K-6 teacher certification.

HOW IS THE PROGRAM ORGANIZED?

The elementary MAT consists of two flexible tracks.

- License Seeking track: For students who pursue the MAT while continuing their current employment and will request traditional student teaching.
- Practitioner Track: For students who pursue the MAT while teaching full-time. We help KS teachers obtain a LERP License.

WHEN CAN I APPLY?

Applications are accepted year-round. Applicants should plan to apply within two to three months from the start of the semester. The fall semester begins in late August, the spring semester begins in late January, and the summer semester begins in mid-May.

WHAT ARE THE DEGREE AND GPA REQUIREMENTS?

Bachelor's degree with a 3.0 GPA overall or in the final two years. If your GPA is below 3.0, contact Dr. Vontz (tvontz@ksu.edu) to explore options.

WHAT TESTS ARE REQUIRED?

No tests are required to be admitted to the elementary MAT. To become certified in Kansas, at the end of the MAT program, students will need to complete a background check and pass the Elementary Praxis Test series (7001).

HOW DO STUDENTS COMPLETE FIELD EXPERIENCES?

Students complete field experiences (practicum and student teaching) in accredited schools near where they currently live. MAT students are required to obtain a device that enables recording, such as a tablet or video-enabled phone. The combination of these technologies enables real-time and video classroom observations and evaluation.

WILL THE DEGREE TRANSFER TO OTHER STATES?

Yes, the degree and teaching certificate do transfer to other states. Kansas has reciprocal licensing agreements with all other states; however, students may be required to complete an additional test or other state-specific requirements (e.g., state history and/or constitution).

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (LICENSE-SEEKING)

FAQs CONTINUED

IS FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE?

- **Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship:** Applications are usually due in late spring.
- **K-State Online Scholarship:** The application deadlines for summer, fall, and spring awards.
- **Federal Loan Forgiveness for Teachers:** Maximum benefits \$17,500.
- **FAFSA:** Completing the FAFSA is required to be eligible for several of the financial assistance programs listed above.

WHAT IS THE PROGRAM COST?

- Tuition is \$570.43 per credit hour.
- 31 credit hours x \$570.43 = \$17,683.33
- Tuition is paid semester by semester or on a monthly payment plan option.

CAN I CONTINUE TO WORK IN MY CURRENT POSITION?

Yes, for much of the program. However, during the semester you enroll in EDCI 800, you are required to attend your classroom placement six hours per week for 11 weeks for a total of 66 hours; during EDCI 801, you will complete 12+ weeks of full-time student teaching and will not be able to continue full-time employment.

I AM A PARA-EDUCATOR. WILL MY JOB “COUNT” FOR MY FIELD EXPERIENCES?

No. Although we might be able to place you in the school in which you work, your work as a para does NOT count toward field experiences. Your field experiences require you to demonstrate additional skills beyond your excellent experiences as a para.

HOW IS THE CURRICULUM ORGANIZED?

Prerequisite Core Courses (6 credits)

- **EDCI 702** - Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (3 credits)
- **EDCI 716** - Teaching Diverse Learners (3 credits)

Core Courses (20 credits)

- **EDCI 710** - Social Foundations of Education (3 credits), summer only
- **EDCI 760** - Action Research in Education (3 credits)
- **EDCI 791** - Teaching Science and Math (4 credits)
- **EDCI 792** - Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy (4 credits)
- **EDCI 793** - Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts (4 credits)
- **EDCI 800** - Teaching Practicum (2 credits)

Culminating Courses (5 credits)

- **EDCI 801** - Internship in K-12 Schools (4 credits)
- **EDCI 890** - Master's Project (1 credit)

Prerequisites. Successful completion of EDCI 702 and EDCI 716 is required prior to enrolling in EDCI 800 Practicum.
Culminating courses. EDCI 801 and EDCI 890 are required during the last semester and are to be taken concurrently.

EXAMPLE ELEMENTARY MAT TRACK

SUMMER START

(License-Seeking Track - 12 Month)

SEMESTER	COURSES	HOURS
Summer	EDCI 702 - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	3
Summer	EDCI 710 - Social Foundations of K-12 Education	3
Summer	EDCI 716 - Teaching Diverse Learners	3
Fall	EDCI 791 - Teaching Science and Mathematics in the Elementary School	4
Fall	EDCI 792 - Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy in the Elementary School	4
Fall	EDCI 800 - Teaching Practicum	2
Winter Intersession (Spring Enrollment)	EDCI 793 - Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts in the Elementary Schools	4
Spring	EDCI 760 - Action Research in Education	3
Spring	EDCI 801 - Internship in K-12 Schools	4
Spring	EDCI 890 - Master's Project	1
Total		31

EXAMPLE ELEMENTARY MAT TRACK

FALL START

(License-Seeking Track)

EDCATS

SEMESTER	COURSES	HOURS
Fall	EDCI 702 - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	3
Fall	EDCI 716 - Teaching Diverse Learners	3
Fall	EDCI 792 - Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy in the Elementary School	4
Spring	EDCI 800 - Teaching Practicum	2
Spring	EDCI 760 - Action Research in Education	3
Summer	EDCI 710 - Social Foundations of K-12 Education	3
Summer	EDCI 793 - Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts in the Elementary Schools	4
Fall	EDCI 791 - Teaching Science and Mathematics in the Elementary School	4
Fall	EDCI 801 - Internship in K-12 Schools	4
Fall	EDCI 890 - Master's Project	1
Total		31

EXAMPLE ELEMENTARY MAT TRACK

SPRING START

(License-Seeking Track)

EDCATS

SEMESTER	COURSES	HOURS
Spring	EDCI 702 - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	3
Spring	EDCI 716 - Teaching Diverse Learners	3
Summer	EDCI 710 - Social Foundations of K-12 Education	3
Summer	EDCI 793 - Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts in the Elementary Schools	4
Fall	EDCI 791 - Teaching Science and Mathematics in the Elementary School	4
Fall	EDCI 792 - Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy in the Elementary School	4
Fall	EDCI 800 - Teaching Practicum	2
Spring	EDCI 760 - Action Research in Education	3
Spring	EDCI 801 - Internship in K-12 Schools	4
Spring	EDCI 890 - Master's Project	1
Total		31

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (PRACTITIONER TRACK)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DO I NEED TO MARK PRACTITIONER ON MY APPLICATION?

No, students can opt-in to the practitioner track anytime after securing a full-time teaching position.

WHO WILL SERVE AS MY MENTOR TEACHER?

Your principal or district HR will assign you a mentor teacher from your building. MAT practitioners are “teacher of record” and serve on a Limited Elementary Residency Program (LERP) license.

IS THE CURRICULUM THE SAME FOR MAT PRACTITIONERS?

Practitioners take the same curriculum as License Seeking Track students. However, Kansas Practitioner’s are required to take EDCI 886: Orientation to Teaching to qualify for the LERP license.

WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE TO SEARCH FOR TEACHING JOBS?

Resources vary by state. In Kansas, the best place to go is [Educate Kansas](#).

ARE PRACTITIONERS ASSIGNED TO A GRADCAT?

Yes, all practitioners are assigned a GradCat who serves as a mentor, evaluator and coach throughout the program.

IS THERE A CAP ON THE NUMBER OF PRACTITIONERS?

No.

AS A PRACTITIONER, AM I STILL ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL AID?

Yes.

DO I NEED A PASSING PRAXIS TEST SCORE TO PARTICIPATE?

No. Elementary MAT students are encouraged to complete their Praxis exam(s) at the end of their degree program.

IS THERE A TIME LIMIT TO TEACH ON THE LERP LICENSE?

Yes, KSDE requires students to complete their program within two years of receiving their LERP license. Once graduated, all MAT students will be eligible to apply for thier initial license.

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (PRACTITIONER TRACK)

FAQs CONTINUED

HOW DO I OPT-IN TO THE MAT PRACTITIONER TRACK?

- **Step 1. Admission to the MAT - Register and complete EDCI 702 and 716.**
- **Step 2. Secure a full-time teaching contract in Kansas.** The teaching position must be approved by the MAT Program and KSDE. Positions must be full-time, teacher of record while teaching your MAT content. Search [Educate Kansas](#) or local district job boards for openings.
- **Step 3. Contact K-State for Final Approval and Update Plan of Study.** After securing a teaching position, inform K-State that you are selecting the practitioner option. Email or call TJ Duntz (tduntz@ksu.edu or 785-532-5524) to acquire a new Plan of Study and help adjusting enrollment.
- **Step 4. Enroll in EDCI 886 Orientation to Teaching -** Practitioner track students participate in an intensive week-long professional development prior to teaching that continues with individual support throughout the semester.
- **Step 5. Elementary Students will apply for the LERP License using KSDE Form 24b.** The application must be signed by the applicant, hiring school district, and K-State. This will include a background check. EDCI 702 and EDCI 716 must have final passing grades for eligibility. Applicants are required to have a 2.5 GPA in their most recent 60 credit hours of coursework.

Questions?

Send an email or arrange a call with Mr. TJ Duntz (tduntz@ksu.edu).

EXAMPLE ELEMENTARY MAT TRACK

EDCATS

SUMMER START

(Practitioner Track)

SEMESTER	COURSES	HOURS
Summer	EDCI 702 - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	3
Summer	EDCI 716 - Teaching Diverse Learners	3
Summer	EDCI 710 - Social Foundations of K-12 Education	3
Summer	EDCI 886 - Orientation to Teaching	2
FALL SEMESTER - ELIGIBLE FOR KS LERP LICENSE		
Fall	EDCI 791 - Teaching Science and Mathematics in the Elementary School	4
Fall	EDCI 800 - Teaching Practicum	2
Spring	EDCI 792 - Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy in the Elementary School	4
Spring	EDCI 760 - Action Research in Education	3
Summer	EDCI 793 - Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts in the Elementary Schools	4
Fall	EDCI 801 - Internship in K-12 Schools	4
Fall	EDCI 890 - Master's Project	1
Total		33

FALL START

(Practitioner Track)

SEMESTER	COURSES	HOURS
Fall	EDCI 702 - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	3
Fall	EDCI 716 - Teaching Diverse Learners	3
Fall	EDCI 886 - Orientation to Teaching	2
SPRING SEMESTER - ELIGIBLE FOR KS LERP LICENSE		
Spring	EDCI 792 - Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy in the Elementary School	4
Spring	EDCI 800 - Teaching Practicum	2
Summer	EDCI 710 - Social Foundations of K-12 Education	3
Summer	EDCI 793 - Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts in the Elementary Schools	4
Fall	EDCI 791 - Teaching Science and Mathematics in the Elementary School	4
Fall	EDCI 760 - Action Research in Education	3
Spring	EDCI 801 - Internship in K-12 Schools	4
Spring	EDCI 890 - Master's Project	1
Total		33

EXAMPLE ELEMENTARY MAT TRACK

SPRING START

(Practitioner Track)

EDCATS

SEMESTER	COURSES	HOURS
Spring	EDCI 702 - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	3
Spring	EDCI 716 - Teaching Diverse Learners	3
Spring	EDCI 886 - Orientation to Teaching	2
SUMMER TERM - ELIGIBLE FOR KS LERP LICENSE		
Summer	EDCI 710 - Social Foundations of K-12 Education	3
Summer	EDCI 793 - Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts in the Elementary Schools	4
Fall	EDCI 791 - Teaching Science and Mathematics in the Elementary School	4
Fall	EDCI 800 - Teaching Practicum	2
Spring	EDCI 792 - Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy in the Elementary School	4
Spring	EDCI 760 - Action Research in Education	3
Fall	EDCI 801 - Internship in K-12 Schools	4
Fall	EDCI 890 - Master's Project	1
Total		33



EDCATS



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