

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Elementary (K-6) Information Packet

Practical, Convenient, and High-Quality Teacher Preparation
for Career-Changers | 2023-2024

YOUR PATHWAY TO TEACHING



EDCATS

Educators Powered by Purpose

**KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

College of Education

Master of Arts in Teaching
Director | Thomas Vontz
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KANSAS STATE

UNIVERSITY

[Thomas S. Vontz](#)
Professor and Director,
Master of Arts in Teaching

DEAR FUTURE TEACHER:

K-State has designed TWO [MAT Elementary](#) tracks built specifically for career-changers like you:

- **Practitioner track:** For students who pursue the MAT while teaching full time. Kansas teachers are required to hold a LEAP License.
- **License-seeking track:** For students who pursue the MAT while continuing their current employment.

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](#).
- Apply for the [Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship](#).
- Find out more about [Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program](#).

Why do people choose K-State?

- **Time.** The program may be completed in as little as 12-months.
- **Cost/Value.** K-State's NEW Practitioner Track allows MAT students to serve as the teacher of record while working toward their license and Master's degree. Tuition is reasonable at \$510.60 per credit hour (both in state and out of state). 31 credit hours = [\\$15,828](#).
- **Convenience.** All courses asynchronous; student teach in local schools.
- **Personalized.** Every MAT student is assigned a GradCat — a master teacher who serves as a mentor, coach and evaluator from the beginning of the program to the end.
- **Flexible.** K-State's NEW License-Seeking Track allows MAT students to complete their program in as little as 12-months or over a longer time horizon.
- **Quality.** K-State's MAT is rated [#16 by US News and Work Report](#); courses are taught by leading scholars in their respective fields.
- **Diversity.** Learn with over 200 classmates from more than 35 states who hold undergraduate degrees in diverse fields.
- **Jobs.** More than 97% of our MAT graduates are employed within one year.
- **Practitioner Track.** K-State's NEW Practitioner-Track allows MAT students to serve as the teacher of record while working toward their license and Master's degree.

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.

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (LICENSE-SEEKING) FAQ

1. What is the 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 K-6 Initial Teaching License. The master's degree combines rigorous online coursework with field experiences in accredited elementary schools convenient to students in the program. Upon completion, students will be able to apply for K-6 teacher certification.

2. How is the program organized?

The elementary MAT consists of two, flexible tracks.

- **Practitioner track:** For students who pursue the MAT while teaching full time. Kansas teachers are required to hold a LEAP License.
- **License-seeking track:** For students who pursue the MAT while continuing their current employment.

3. 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.

4. What is the degree and GPA requirement?

Bachelor's degree with 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.

5. What tests are required?

No tests are required to be admitted to the elementary MAT. To become certified in Kansas, however, students will need to complete a background check and pass two tests — the Principles of Teaching and Learning ([PLT 5622](#)) and the Elementary Content Knowledge for Teaching ([CKT 7811](#)). K-State recommends taking both of these tests in the spring semester during student teaching.

6. How do students complete field experiences?

Students complete field (student teaching) experiences 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. Questions about field experiences should be directed to Dr. Wertzberger (ejm7777@ksu.edu).

7. Will the degree transfer to other states?

Yes, the degree and teaching certificate does 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).

8. Is financial aid available?

Yes, scholarships and financial aid are available to students who meet certain qualifications. All students are eligible to apply for:

- [Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship](#): Applications due May 1.
- [K-State Global Campus Scholarships](#): Application deadline is April 1 for the summer, June 1 for the fall and Nov. 1 for the spring.
- [Federal Loan Forgiveness for Teachers](#): Maximum benefit is \$17,500.
- [FAFSA](#): Completion of the FAFSA is required to be eligible for several of the financial assistance programs listed above.

9. What is the cost?

- Tuition is \$510.60 per credit hour.
- 31 credit hours x \$510.60=\$15,828.60

10. Can I continue to work in my current position?

Yes. However, during the semester you enroll in EDCI 800 you are required to arrange (with your cooperating teacher/school) 64 hours of teaching experience; during EDCI 801 you will complete 12-weeks of full-time student teaching and will not be able to continue full-time employment.

11. 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.

12. How is the curriculum organized?

Pre-requisite Core Courses (6 credits)

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

License-seeking Courses (20 credits)

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

Culminating Courses (5 credits)

- **EDCI 801** - Internship in K-12 Schools (4 credits) F and S
- **EDCI 890** - Master’s Project (1 credit) F, S and U

Note: Courses are offered the following semesters: F = Fall semester, S = Spring semester and U = Summer semester

- **Prerequisites.** Successful completion (grade of C or higher) in EDCI 702 and EDCI 716 are required prior to enrolling in any other courses.
- **Culminating courses.** EDCI 801 and EDCI 890 are required during the last semester and are to be taken concurrently.
- **Apprentice sections.** For all courses, license-seeking track students must complete license-seeking or hybrid sections of 760, 791, 792, 793, 800, 801 and 890.

POSSIBLE SCHEDULES MAT LICENSE-SEEKING TRACK (ELEMENTARY)

Summer Starters (12-month)

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

Fall Starters (18-month)

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

Spring Starters (18-month)

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

NOTE: Students may wish to add EDCI 795 (3 Credits) during any semester or additional hours to EDCI 890 during student teaching to qualify as a full-time student.



MAT ELEMENTARY PRACTITIONER FAQs

1. **Do I need to mark practitioner on my application?** No, students can opt-in to the practitioner track at any time after securing a full-time teaching position.
2. **Who will serve as my cooperating teacher?** Typically, your principal, assistant principal or department chair serves as the CT though they are not with you in the classroom. MAT practitioners are the “teacher of record” and serve on a Limited Elementary Apprentice License (LEAP).
3. **How do I opt-in to the MAT practitioner?** Complete the following steps:
 - **Step 1. Admission to the MAT.**
 - **Step 2. Complete Practitioner Prerequisite Courses.** EDCI 702: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment as well as EDCI 716: Teaching Diverse Learners.
 - **Step 3. Apply for teaching positions in Kansas.** You can reach out to local schools or visit [Educate Kansas](#).
 - **Step 4. Secure a full-time teaching contract in Kansas.** The teaching position must be full-time and in an elementary position. Email TJ Duntz (tduntz@k-state.edu) if you have questions about whether a position will work with the program.
 - **Step 5. Declare the Practitioner Track with K-State.** After securing a teaching position, email TJ Duntz (tduntz@k-state.edu) that you are selecting the practitioner track. At this time, let him know the school, grade level and subjects you are hired to teach.
 - **Step 6. Advising Meeting.** Arrange a meeting time with TJ Duntz (Zoom or Phone) to adjust your enrollment sections, add EDCI 886 Orientation to Teaching (required of all practitioner students), create MAT plan forward, and talk through licensing steps.
 - **Step 7. Apply for a Limited Elementary Apprentice License (LEAP) for KSDE.** Contact TJ Duntz (tduntz@k-state.edu) to apply for a LEAP License on Form 24b (includes fingerprints and background check).
 - **Step 8. Successfully complete MAT within 24 months.** This program allows you to earn your master’s degree in as little as 12 months or as much as 24 months of coursework and full-time teaching.
 - **Step 9. Recommendation for Kansas Initial Teaching License.** Upon successful completion of the MAT and the Praxis pedagogy and content tests, you will be recommended for an initial teaching license.
 - **Questions?** Send an email or arrange a call with professor Tom Vontz (tvontz@k-state.edu).
4. **Is the curriculum the same for MAT practitioners?** Practitioners take the same curriculum but are also required to take EDCI 886: Orientation to Teaching (to help prepare you for full-time teaching).
5. **Where is the best place to search for teaching jobs?** Resources vary by state. In Kansas the best place is [Educate Kansas](#).
6. **Is there a cap on the number of practitioners?** No.
7. **Are practitioners assigned a GradCat?** Yes, all practitioners are assigned a GradCat who serves as a mentor, evaluator and coach throughout the program.
8. **As a practitioner, am I still eligible for financial aid?** Yes.
9. **Do I need a passing PRAXIS test score to participate?** No.
10. **Is there a time limit to complete the program?** Yes, KSDE requires students complete their program within two years of receiving their LEAP license.

POSSIBLE SCHEDULES

Spring Starters (18-month)

Semester	Courses	Hours
Spring	EDCI 702 Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment EDCI 886 Seminar in Curriculum and Instruction (Orientation to Teaching) EDCI 716 Teaching Diverse Learners	3 2-3 3
Summer	EDCI 710 Social Foundations of K-12 Education EDCI 793 Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts	3 4
Fall (LEAP License Eligible)	EDCI 791 Teaching Science and Mathematics in the Elementary School EDCI 800 Teaching Practicum EDCI 795 MAT Research Fair*	4 2 1-3
Spring	EDCI 792 Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy EDCI 760 Action Research in Education EDCI 795 MAT Research Fair*	4 3 1-2
Fall	EDCI 801 Internship in K-12 Schools EDCI 890 Master's Project*	4 1-5
TOTAL	*If needed to qualify for financial aid.	33



POSSIBLE SCHEDULES



Summer Starters (12-month)

Semester	Courses	Hours
Summer	EDCI 702 Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment EDCI 710 Social Foundations of K-12 Education EDCI 716 Teaching Diverse Learners	3 3 3
Fall (LEAP License Eligible)	EDCI 791 Teaching Science and Mathematics in the Elementary School EDCI 800 Teaching Practicum EDCI 886 Seminar in Curriculum and Instruction (Orientation to Teaching)	4 2 2-3
Spring	EDCI 792 Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy EDCI 760 Action Research in Education EDCI 795 MAT Research Fair*	4 3 1-2
Summer	EDCI 793 Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts EDCI 795 MAT Research Fair*	4 1-2
Fall	EDCI 801 Internship in K-12 Schools EDCI 890 Master's Project*	4 1-5
TOTAL	*If needed to qualify for financial aid.	33

POSSIBLE SCHEDULES

Fall Starters (18-month)

Semester	Courses	Hours
Fall	EDCI 702 Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment EDCI 886 Seminar in Curriculum and Instruction (Orientation to Teaching) EDCI 716 Teaching Diverse Learners	3 2-3 3
Spring (LEAP License Eligible)	EDCI 792 Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy EDCI 800 Teaching Practicum EDCI 795 MAT Research Fair*	4 2 1-3
Summer	EDCI 710 Social Foundations of K-12 Education EDCI 793 Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts	3 4
Fall	EDCI 791 Teaching Science and Mathematics in the Elementary School EDCI 760 Action Research in Education EDCI 795 MAT Research Fair*	4 3 1-2
Spring	EDCI 801 Internship in K-12 Schools EDCI 890 Master's Project*	4 1-5
TOTAL	*If needed to qualify for financial aid.	33

