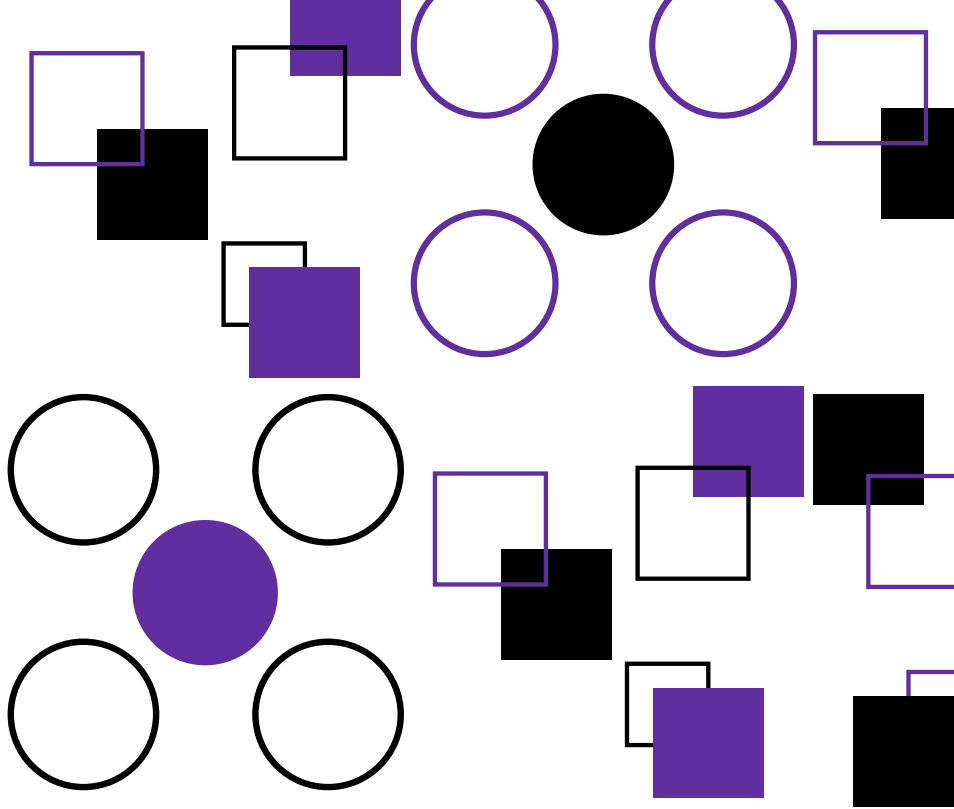
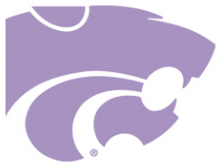




Kansas State University's Master of Arts in Teaching

**UNIFIED ELEMENTARY
AND
SPECIAL EDUCATION
2026-2027**



DEAR FUTURE TEACHER

K-State has designed two MAT Unified Elementary and Special Education tracks built specifically for career-changers like you:

- **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. Students hired in KS apply for Limited Elementary Residency Program (LERP) teaching license after admission.

I have included additional information about our award-winning, flexible MAT Unified program, including FAQs and 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?

- **Elementary + Special Education in One Degree.** Earning your Elementary Education Unified (K-6) license qualifies you to teach elementary and special education in just 34-36 credit hours.
- **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.
- **Affordable.** All students pay in-state tuition regardless of residency. More than 70% of MAT students receive scholarships, such as the [K-State Online Scholarship](#).
- **Flexible and Convenient.** MAT students work on their online courses as their schedules allow and may complete their program in as little as 16 months or at their own pace, with student teaching in local schools.
- **Relevant.** You will learn today's most essential practices—how to use Universal Design for Learning (UDL), intensive intervention and data-based individualization (DBI), and social-emotional learning to maximize learning for all students.
- **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.
- **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.

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

MAT UNIFIED ELEMENTARY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE MAT UNIFIED ELEMENTARY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION?

The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Unified program opens a pathway to elementary AND special education teaching for career changers. Students earn a master's degree and recommendation for the KS Initial Elementary Education Unified K-6 license. The master's degree combines rigorous online coursework with field experiences in accredited elementary schools that are convenient to students in the program.

HOW IS THE PROGRAM ORGANIZED?

The MAT Unified program consists of two 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 but all students should plan to start in the spring semester. Applicants should apply within two to three months prior their start date. The spring semester typically begins in mid-late January.

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 MAT Unified program. 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) and the Special Education Foundational Knowledge Praxis (5355).

WILL THE DEGREE TRANSFER TO OTHER STATES?

Yes, the degree and teaching certificate do transfer to other states. Kansas has reciprocal licensing agreements with other states; additional test(s) or other state-specific requirements may be required. We recommend to check the out-of-state/licensure-transfer (reciprocity) policy for your state.

MAT UNIFIED ELEMENTARY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING**FAQs Continued****IS FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE?**

- **Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship**: Maximum benefit is \$3,300 per semester.
- **K-State Online Scholarship**: Applications accepted for summer, fall, and spring awards.
- **Federal Loan Forgiveness for Teachers**: Maximum benefit is \$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.
- 34 credit hours x \$570.43 = \$19,394.62
- Tuition is paid semester by semester or on a monthly payment plan option.

License-Seeking Track FAQs**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 DO STUDENTS COMPLETE FIELD EXPERIENCES?

Students complete field experiences (practicum and student teaching) in accredited schools near where they currently live. Students will have opportunities to work in inclusive classrooms as well as alongside licensed special educators, supporting the specialized instruction and services written into students' IEPs. MAT students are required to obtain and use a device that has video and sound recording capabilities for evaluation purposes.

HOW DO I GET A PLACEMENT FOR THE PRACTICUM AND INTERNSHIP?

License-Seeking Track students request a placement after admission. Through a request form, the student will rank their top three preferred school districts. K-State's field experience team will take it from there, coordinating all communication and any required MOUs. The student will be notified of the placement in advance of starting the field experience course.

SPRING START

(License-Seeking Track)

SEMESTER	COURSES	HOURS
Spring (Jan - May)	EDSP 711 - Characteristics of Exceptionalities	3
Spring (Jan - May)	EDSP 777 - SEL & Behavior Management	3
Spring (Jan - May)	EDSP 743 - Intensive Intervention for Dyscalculia	1
Summer (May)	EDCI 710 - Social Foundations of Education	3
Summer (June)	EDCI 702 - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	3
Summer (July)	EDSP 744 - Intensive Intervention for Dyslexia	1
Fall (Aug-Dec)	EDSP 785 - High Incidence Practicum I	1
Fall (Aug-Dec)	EDCI 800 - Teaching Practicum	2
Fall (Aug-Dec)	EDCI 791 - Teaching Science and Math in the Elementary School	4
Fall (Aug-Dec)	EDCI 792 - Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy in the Elementary School	4
Spring (Dec-Jan)	EDCI 793 - Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts in the Elementary School	3
Spring (Jan - May)	EDCI 801 - Internship in K-12 Schools	4
Spring (Jan - May)	EDSP 835 - Individualized Education Program	1
Spring (Jan - May)	EDCI 890 - Master's Project	1
Total		34

MAT UNIFIED ELEMENTARY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING****Practitioner Track FAQs****DO I NEED TO MARK PRACTITIONER ON MY APPLICATION?**

No. Students may opt into the practitioner track at any time after securing a full-time teaching position in inclusive elementary education or special education.

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. Some students will be selected for Bridge to Practice Mentoring Support.

IS THE CURRICULUM THE SAME FOR MAT PRACTITIONERS?

Practitioners take the same curriculum as License-Seeking Track students. However, Kansas Practitioners 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. Look at local school district websites. In Kansas, [Educate Kansas](#) is a great resource.

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.

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 Unified students will be eligible to apply for the KS Initial Elementary Education Unified K-6 license.

DO I NEED A PASSING PRAXIS TEST SCORE TO PARTICIPATE?

No. MAT Unified students are encouraged to complete their Praxis exams (7001 and 5355) at the end of their degree program.

MAT UNIFIED ELEMENTARY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

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 the prerequisite courses.
- **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 (K-6), while teaching in inclusive elementary education or special education. 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. Unified 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. Prerequisite courses 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.

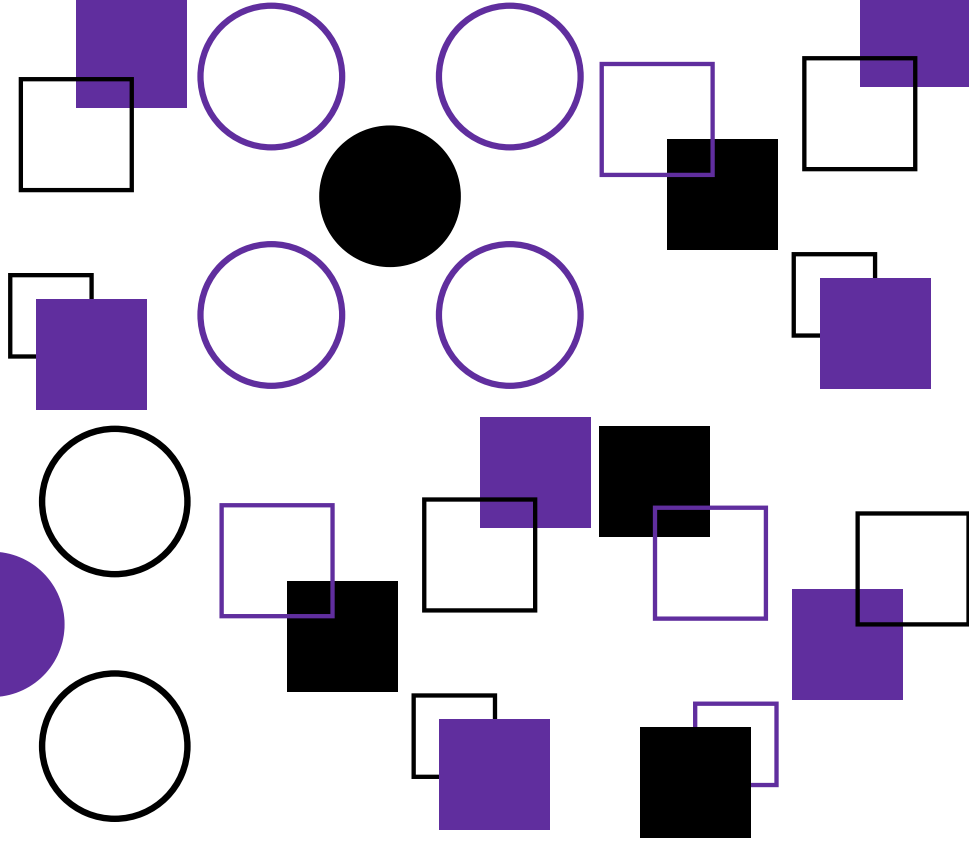
Questions?

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

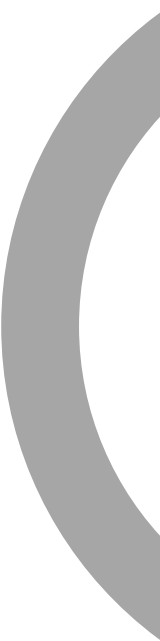
SPRING START

(Practitioner Track)

SEMESTER	COURSES	HOURS
Spring (Jan - May)	EDSP 711 - Characteristics of Exceptionalities	3
Spring (Jan - May)	EDSP 777 - SEL & Behavior Management	3
Spring (Jan - May)	EDSP 743 - Intensive Intervention for Dyscalculia	1
Summer (May)	EDCI 710 - Social Foundations of Education	3
Summer (June)	EDCI 702 - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	3
Summer (July)	EDSP 744 - Intensive Intervention for Dyslexia	1
Summer (Aug)	EDCI 886 - Orientation to Teaching	2
Eligible for LERP License with a qualifying KS teaching position in inclusive elementary education or special education.		
Fall (Aug-Dec)	EDSP 785 - High Incidence Practicum I	1
Fall (Aug-Dec)	EDCI 800 - Teaching Practicum	2
Fall (Aug-Dec)	EDCI 791 - Teaching Science and Math in the Elementary School	4
Spring (Jan - May)	EDCI 792 - Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy in the Elementary School	4
Spring (Jan - May)	EDSP 835 - Individualized Education Program	1
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Fall (Aug - Dec)	EDCI 890 - Master's Project	1
Total		36



EDCATS



KANSAS STATE

U N I V E R S I T Y

College of Education