Masters of Arts in Teaching – Teaching

Who pursues this program?
The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) is designed for bachelor-degreed individuals who want to make a career transition into the teaching profession and achieve Texas teacher certification while pursuing a graduate degree.

How does the program work?
The program requires application to and pre-approval through the Panhandle Alternative Certification for Educators or PACE program prior to admission to the graduate school. Candidates who are admitted to the program complete requirements for initial certification—course work, testing, and supervised teaching in a Texas approved school, and continue with additional course work to complete the MAT degree. Teaching field options are available in elementary, secondary, all-level, and special education.

How will this degree benefit me?
This degree provides a way for bachelor-degreed individuals to complete initial Texas teaching certification and an advanced degree. An eligible candidate may be employed as a Texas teacher or may complete clinical teaching under the supervision of an experienced teacher a TEA-approved public school or TEA-recognized private school in Texas. Candidates who complete this degree not only complete certification, but also expand their knowledge and skills to support their effectiveness as teachers and meet state certificate renewal requirements in their respective fields.

What courses will I take?
The MAT degree is a 36-hour degree (42 hours with the graduate clinical teaching option) with 18 hours of professional education course work for initial certification, 9 hours in the graduate core in education, and 9 hours in the candidate’s teaching field. The “teaching field” courses could include graduate course work from other academic disciplines. For example, a secondary math teacher could take graduate course work in mathematics; an elementary teaching could take additional reading or early childhood classes. The “teaching field” component is determined with the adviser based upon the certification (teaching) area of the candidate.

What sets this program apart from other programs?
There are more than 150 alternative certification programs across the state of Texas. The MAT/PACE program provides initial certification through online, graduate course work, taught by full graduate faculty. Because candidates are in a graduate degree program, they may qualify for student financial aid. Additionally, program staff work closely with districts in the region to help candidates secure teaching positions. WT’s alternative certification program is accredited by the Texas Education Agency’s State Board for Educator Certification and is approved by the US Department of Education.
Admission Criteria and Application Guidelines

Admission Requirements

- Application and application fee to West Texas A&M University
- Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning with a 2.75 overall GPA
- Application to and pre-approval from the Panhandle Alternative Certification for Educators (PACE) program
- Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- Submission of Graduate School application and fee

Priority Application Deadlines

- July 1 for Fall admission
- November 1 for Spring admission
- April 1 for Summer admission

Program Contact Information

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