

## Masters of Arts in Teaching

### ***Who takes this program?***

The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) is designed for individuals who wish to receive Texas *initial* teacher certification while pursuing a graduate degree. The MAT will allow candidates in WT's alternative certification programs to complete initial certification requirements, expand their knowledge and skills to support their effectiveness as teachers, and meet state certificate renewal requirements in their respective fields.

### ***How does the program work?***

Candidates must be admitted to the PACE or Post-Baccalaureate certification program and the graduate school to complete course work, testing, and supervised teaching requirements for initial certification and continue with additional course work to complete the MAT degree. Teaching field options are available in elementary, secondary, all-level, and special education. In addition to the required course work, seminars in topics such as classroom management, educational law, instructional strategies, and TExES preparation are offered during the summer.

### ***How will this degree benefit me?***

This degree is for individuals who are seeking *initial* Texas teaching certification. An eligible individual may seek a teaching position with any TEA-approved public school or TEA-recognized private school in Texas.

### ***What courses will I take?***

The MAT degree is a 36-hour degree (42 hours with the student teaching option) with 15-18 hours of professional education course work for initial certification, 9 hours in the graduate core in education, and 9-12 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. Our program provides initial certification through online, graduate course work, taught by full graduate faculty, applicable to the MAT degree. We work closely with districts in the region to help secure teaching position for our candidates.

WT's alternative certification programs are accredited by the Texas Education Agency's State Board for Educator Certification and is "No Child Left Behind-approved" by the US Department of Education.

## Admission Criteria and Application Guidelines

### *Admission Requirements*

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning
- Admission into one of WTAMU's alternative certification programs
  - The Panhandle Alternative Certification for Educators (PACE)
  - Post-Baccalaureate Certification (PB/Cert)
- Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- Submission of Graduate School application and fee

### *Deadlines to Apply for MAT/Post-Baccalaureate Program*

- August 1 for Fall admission
- December 1 for Spring admission
- May 1 for Summer admission

### *Deadline to Apply for MAT/PACE Program*

- Yearly priority application period January 1-March 1

### *Program Contact Information*

Susan Dennis  
[sldennis@wtamu.edu](mailto:sldennis@wtamu.edu)  
806-651-2599

Gilbert Antunez  
[gantunez@wtamu.edu](mailto:gantunez@wtamu.edu)  
806-651-2599

[www.wtamu.edu/altcert](http://www.wtamu.edu/altcert)