**Master of Arts in Teaching- Special Education (MATX) Checklist**

The MATX is a post-baccalaureate program designed for individuals who are seeking an alternate route to become a highly qualified special educator. The MATX program of study consists of eleven graduate level courses offered completely online. All participants in the program will receive a mild/ moderate (7-12) special education endorsement on their teaching license. Before participants can enroll in the first internship course, they must secure a teaching position in a Mississippi public school as a special education teacher.

**\*\*\*\*\*\*We are not currently able to admit students living in the states of Georgia and Hawaii.**

The MATX degree is a high-quality response to Mississippi’s need for strong teachers. Through the program students will be eligible for the following:

* 3-year Class A non-renewable license (grades 7-12) after completion of EDX 6193, EDX 6813, EDX 8173, and passing scores on the Praxis CORE or 21 ACT or 3.0 GPA on last 60 hours, and Praxis Specialty Area SPED exam. *If you have already completed a master’s degree, you will not be able to upgrade your license to master’s level with the 3-year license.*
* 5-year Class A renewable license (grades 7-12) after receiving a 3-year Class A non-renewable license and completing Internship I and Internship II over a period of two semesters. *If you have already completed a master’s degree, you will be able to upgrade your license to master’s level after your 5-year license is issued.*
* 5-year Class AA renewable license after completing the MATX degree program (including coursework and a capstone experience).
* Students are eligible to add K-6 to the 5-year AA renewable license with passing scores on the Foundations of Reading exam.

\* **ALL students (degree seeking and licensure-only) MUST** be admitted to the MATX program to be recommended for licensure. Students must also secure a full-time SPED teaching position in a public school before registering for Internship I and II.

**Requirements for Enrolling in the MATX Program at Mississippi State University:**

***Please contact Elizabeth Palmer at 662.325.0366 or*** [***ejh121@msstate.edu***](mailto:ejh121@msstate.edu) ***prior to beginning the application process.***

**Steps 1-8 must be completed by:**

* + **December 1** to be considered for spring admission.
  + **May 1** to be considered for summer admission.
  + **August 1** to be considered for fall admission.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Submit an online application to the Office of the Graduate School at **grad.msstate.edu**.

* Select **Master of Arts Teaching Special Education Alternate Route** for your program of interest.
* Choose **Distance/Online** for your campus.
* **Three recommendations.** The Graduate School will send emails to the three people (supervisors, employers, professors) you list as references as soon as you submit your application. Please contact your recommenders when you submit your application.
* **Statement of Purpose.** The Statement of Purpose should be approximately one page explaining why you want to become a special education teacher.
* **Official transcripts** must be submitted to the Graduate School. If you earned a bachelor’s degree at MSU you do not have to send a transcript for that degree.
  + **Electronic Transcripts**:

Transcripts should be sent to: [gradapps@grad.msstate.edu](mailto:gradapps@grad.msstate.edu) Mississippi State University, Graduate School.

* + **Paper Transcripts Address (USPS):**  
    *Mississippi State University*  
     *The Office of the Graduate School*  
     *P.O. Box G*  
     *Mississippi State, MS 39762*
  + **Physical Street Address (for DHL, Fed Ex, UPS, DHS, etc.):**  
    *Mississippi State University*  
     *The Office of the Graduate School*  
     *175 President Circle*  
     *116 Allen Hall*  
     *Mississippi State, MS 39762*
* **Application fee**. The application will not be processed until the $60 application fee is paid.

*If you begin an application and forget your login and/or password,* ***do not begin another application****. Please contact the Office of the Graduate School at 662.325.7400 for assistance.*

\*\*\* Contact your references shortly after submitting your application to ensure they have received the proper forms.

\*\*\* Please note that your application will not be considered until all forms have been submitted, and your application fee has been paid.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Have a minimum GPA of 2.75 (based on a 4.0 scale) on the last 60 credit hours of baccalaureate work.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Meet the Mississippi score requirements on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators tests (CORE) **or** have a composite ACT score of at least 21. MATX staff will unofficially evaluate your transcript to see if you meet the GPA requirements if you do not have a 21 on the ACT or passing Praxis Cores scores.

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| --- | --- |
| **Praxis Core**  **Area Examination Test Codes** | **Required Score** |
| **Reading - 5713** | 156 |
| **Writing - 5723** | 162 |
| **Mathematics – 5732 (before Sept. 1, 2019)**  **Mathematics – 5733 (beginning Sept. 1, 2019)** | 150  130 |
| **Combined Test - 5752** | Score reported by individual tests |

**\*\*\*Passing scores on the Math Core 5732 will be accepted by the Mississippi Department of Education through August 31, 2021.**

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Meet the Mississippi score requirements on the Praxis II Specialty Area Examination in Special Education (5355). Please make sure your scores are sent to MSU and MDE.

*Effective 9/1/2023 all must take Praxis 5355. Those with a passing score on the 5354 may use that score until 8/31/2025* ***if it was obtained before 9/1/2023****. All must take 5355, 9/1/2023 and after.*

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Core scores and Praxis II Specialty Area Examination scores should be sent to MSU from ETS and submit a copy to [ejh121@msstate.edu](mailto:ejh121@msstate.edu). Applicants should also print a copy of their scores from the ETS website for their personal records.

For information on the Praxis Series assessments:

* Visit <http://www.ets.org/praxis>
* Call 1-800-772-9476 for a customer service representative

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Complete a background check through **https://mycb.castlebranch.com**. **Enter Package Code MI43**. Please send the confirmation that the background check is in progress to Elizabeth Palmer at [ejh121@msstate.edu](mailto:ejh121@msstate.edu). Your application cannot be sent to the faculty until this is done.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Completion of the MATX Orientation Quiz and Self-Assessment Quiz of Professional Dispositions and submission of a signed Mississippi State University College of Education Dispositions form. Students will be enrolled in the Orientation through Canvas after an admission decision is made.

**Important Notes:**

* Admission packets are forwarded from the Office of the Graduate School to CISE upon completion. Secondary education faculty use a committee review process to admit teacher candidates to the MATX program. Once a decision has been made, applicants are notified of their admission status.
* For students seeking financial assistance, please note that provisionally admitted students may not be eligible for financial aid.
* Endorsements added to a 3-year non-renewable license are allowed by the Mississippi

Department of Education. However, problems arise when students secure a position based on an endorsement rather than on their initial licensure area. Internship I and II must be completed in special education.

* All students admitted to the MATX program must complete the CISE Graduate Student Orientation.
* Graduation from the MATX program requires the successful completion of all coursework and passing scores on the Capstone Experience. The Capstone Experience is completed during the last 6 hours of coursework.
* Students must maintain a minimum of a 3.0 GPA for all graduate coursework. One class may be repeated with a grade below a C. Two grades below a C will result in dismissal from the program.
* Licensure requirements are subject to change by the Mississippi Department of Education. Students in the MATX program must meet the licensure requirements in effect at the time of recommendation for licensure.

**MATX Required Coursework - 33 Semester Hours**

**\*Online courses include nonrefundable distance fees.**

**The first three classes listed must be taken for licensure before the internship begins:**

**EDX 6193 Advanced Planning for Special Education (3 credit hours)**

A study of variables contributing to efficiency and competency in planning for teacher-learner activities and the creation and maintenance of positive learning environments.

**EDX 6813 Introduction to Assessment in Special Education (3 credit hours)**

A course to study measurement and evaluation of learning activities and achievement of elementary school pupils and high school students; standardized tests; test construction; statistical techniques.

**EDX 8173 Special Education in the Regular Classroom (3 credit hours)**

Provides a greater understanding of the handicapped child who may be in the regular classroom and suggests methods and techniques for teaching the handicapped student in the regular classroom.

**EDX 8233 Special Education Internship I. (3 credit hours)**

First semester of directed teaching in a special education classroom.

**EDX 8243 Special Education Internship II. (3 credit hours)**

Second semester of directed teaching in a special education classroom.

**MATX students will also complete six additional courses to meet degree requirements.**

Note: A full time special education teaching position in a Mississippi public school must be secured to complete internship I and II. Anyone teaching outside of Mississippi must discuss that with Elizabeth Palmer upon admission to the MATX program.