**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 state of Georgia.**

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).

**Note: Students are eligible to add K-6 to the 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 Stephanie Etheridge at 662.325.1999 or*** ***[setheridge@colled.msstate.edu](mailto:setheridge@colled.msstate.edu) prior to beginning the application process.***

**Steps 1-6 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 – 5733 (beginning Sept. 1, 2019)** | 130 |
| **Combined Test - 5752** | Score reported by individual tests |

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 Mississippi Department of Education.

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| **Praxis II**  **Area Examination Test Codes** | **Required Score** |
| **Special Education – 5354 (If taken before 9-1-2023 scores are good through 8-31-2025)** | 152 |
| **Special Education – 5355 (Required after 9-1-2023)** | 139 |

For information on the Praxis Series assessments:

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

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. 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 Stephanie Etheridge ([***setheridge@colled.msstate.edu***](mailto:setheridge@colled.msstate.edu) ***).*** Your application cannot be sent to the faculty until this is done.

**Important Notes:**

* Admission packets are forwarded from the Office of the Graduate School to TEAL (Teacher Education and Leadership) upon completion. Special 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 TEAL 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.
* 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.

**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)**

Provides a greater understanding of planning and managing in special education. Suggests methods and techniques to be used in teaching students with disabilities.

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

Assessment as it relates specifically to working with special education students. Topics to be covered will include Special Education Law, IEP development, and related topics.

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

Provides a greater understanding of children with disabilities who may be in the regular classroom and suggests methods and techniques for teaching students with disabilities in the regular classroom.

**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 Stephanie Etheridge upon admission to the MATX program.

**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.

**EDX 8033 Supporting Students with Disabilities in STEM (3 credit hours)**

Strategies for supporting P12 students with disabilities within the STEM classroom.

**EDX 8043 Evidence Based Practices for Struggling Learners (3 credit hours)**

Analysis of evidence-based practices for struggling learners in reading and math. The course will emphasize evidence-based practices for planning, collaboration, instruction, and assessment to ensure an appropriate education for students with disabilities.

**EDX 8113 Special Education Law (3 credit hours)**

Analysis of legislation, litigation, and administrative rulings related to special education. The course will emphasize the development of legally sound policies and procedures to ensure an appropriate education for students with disabilities.

**EDX 8263 Eligibility Requirements for Students with Disabilities (3 credit hours)**

The course will analyze eligibility requirements to determining need for special education and appropriate services for students with disabilities. Topics to be covered will include Special Education law, comprehensive evaluations, and related topics.

**RDG 6123 Elementary Literacy Instruction I (3 credit hours)**

Foundational knowledge of the English linguistic system applied to explicit, systematic instruction for print concepts, phonological awareness, word recognition, and spelling from early childhood through upper elementary grades.

**RDG 6143 Elementary Literacy Instruction II (3 credit hour**s)

Concepts, materials, and teaching strategies for oral language development, academic vocabulary, reading fluency, reading comprehension, and writing.