



The
UNIVERSITY
of VERMONT

Licensure Master of Arts in Teaching
in Curriculum and Instruction

Secondary Education Teacher Preparation Program

Grades 7-12

College of Education and Social Services
Department of Education
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**Program Information
and
Application Instructions**

JANUARY 2017

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

College of Education and Social Services

Licensure Master of Arts in Teaching in Curriculum and Instruction: Secondary Education Teacher Preparation Program

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General Overview

The Secondary Education Teacher Preparation Program offers a Licensure Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Curriculum and Instruction designed for individuals who have a bachelor's degree in an academic discipline and who want to become licensed to teach grades 7-12 in Vermont and also earn a master's degree. The program fulfills the professional education requirements for state licensure. Areas of licensure for Secondary Education (Grades 7-12) at the University of Vermont include English, foreign language, mathematics, science, and social studies. (See below for list of approved areas.)

Program Entrance Criteria

All applicants to the Secondary Education Licensure Masters Preparation Program must meet the following entrance criteria:

- A major or its equivalent in a State-approved licensing area (see below).
- A minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 in undergraduate coursework as well as a 3.0 in the State-approved licensing area (major).
- A demonstrated commitment to working with young people.

State-Approved Licensing Areas

Majors

Sciences: Biological Science, Chemistry, Earth Science, Physics

Social Studies: Geography, History, Political Science, Economics

English

Mathematics

Languages: French, German, Latin, Spanish

For specific courses required in each major, please access <http://www.uvm.edu/~cess>

The information contained in this packet reflects the programs as of January 2017 and may be subject to change.

MAT Program FAQ's

What is the significance of the name Licensure Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.)?

This program has two major objectives. The first is to become qualified to obtain a Vermont teaching license in secondary education in one of the majors listed on Page 1. The second is to obtain a Master of Arts in Teaching degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

What is looked for in candidates?

Faculty are looking for people who have a commitment to the teaching profession as demonstrated through successful experiences in working with young people, as well as the ability to clearly articulate what it means to you to be a teacher. Depth and breadth of knowledge in the liberal arts and sciences major or area of concentration is indicative of the high level of academic competence expected of in our candidates.

What is the selection process?

Due to limitations in the number of students admitted, the selection process is by necessity competitive. Applications are evaluated by a two-member faculty committee in Secondary Education based on the criteria listed on Page 1. Because of the field-based nature of the program, admission to the program is dependent on both a successful review by program faculty AND a successful interview with our field-based partners. Faculty has the option of requesting additional information and interviews as needed. After formal review, official notification will generally come from the Graduate College within 4-6 weeks.

Are there any in-school experiences?

In-school experiences are an essential part of the program, and students must be able to arrange their schedules to accommodate this experience. In the fall semester, students spend up to 3 full days per week in the schools (the other two days of the week are reserved for on-campus coursework) and must complete a full semester of student teaching (5 full days per week) during the spring semester. Practicum experiences will take place at schools that have entered into a partnership agreement with the College of Education and Social Services in which preparation of pre-service teachers is seen as a part of the overall school development.

Where are the in-school experiences?

Students are placed at one of three partnership school sites (Mt. Abe in Bristol, Montpelier High School in Montpelier and U-32 Middle/High School in East Montpelier), and they participate as a member of the faculty for the entire academic year. M.A.T. students should expect to begin their program prior to the beginning of the public school year, around August 15. A student who is accepted into the Licensure Master of Arts in Teaching Program will be notified of the site to which he or she has been nominated for placement. As mentioned on Page 2, in order to confirm the acceptance to the program, the student will need to complete a successful interview that results in a recommendation for placement. Students complete some coursework and all practicum experiences as an integrated whole at the school. Because of the distances involved, many students at these sites live near the site rather than in the Burlington area.

What contact do I have with other students in the program?

All students in the program meet at an orientation session at the beginning of the fall semester, and have contact throughout the year through courses offered on campus. In addition, students form a cohort at their school; these cohorts foster the development of professional, collegial relationships with other pre-service candidates.

Can I begin the program at any time of the year?

The Licensure Program begins in mid-July and continues through May. If there are courses in a specific licensure area that are needed, as noted on a candidate's acceptance letter, these may be taken prior to the mid-August start date. All coursework must be completed in order to earn a licensure recommendation.

Is it possible to attend part-time or in the evening?

All students are strongly encouraged to enroll on a full-time basis (12-15 credit hours per semester). Part-time attendance is an option; however, all candidates must attend full-time during their final semester in order to complete their student teaching internship. Some required courses are usually offered in the late afternoon or evening, but it is not possible to complete the part-time program taking only evening courses. Part-time slots are limited and students must make a formal request to the program faculty for consideration.

Are there any minimum requirements to remain in the program?

Any student who (a) earns two or more grades below a B (3.0) while in the program, or who does not maintain a GPA of 3.0, will be dismissed. Dismissals may be appealed to the College of Education and Social Services Studies Committee. Letter grades are used to indicate levels of performance in courses as follows: A, excellent; B, good; C, fair; F, failure. (Graduate students do not receive a grade of D.) A candidate for a graduate degree must complete the program with a minimum overall grade-point average of 3.0. For the purpose of determining a grade-point average, the following applies: A+, 4.0; A, 4.0; A-, 3.67; B+, 3.33; B, 3.0; B-, 2.67; C+, 2.33; C, 2.0; C-, 1.67; F, 0.0.

Can any requirements be waived based upon past courses and/or other experiences?

Comparable courses that have previously been taken at UVM or other institutions *may* be applied toward program requirements. Course substitutions are considered on an individual basis, and will require appropriate documentation such as syllabi, catalog course descriptions and official transcripts to be reviewed by program faculty. The Graduate College has provisions for accepting transfer credits; it is important to check with the Program to determine if the previous courses align with the M.A.T. Program expectations. When applying, please discuss this with the Program Coordinator or other program designee.

What constitutes successful completion of the program?

Determination of a student's successful completion of the program is based on assessment of each student's Licensure Portfolio and a student's satisfactory completion of all required coursework. A Licensure Portfolio documents a prospective teacher's ability to meet the "Standards for Vermont Educators: A Vision for Schooling" (Vermont Agency of Education) and Results Oriented Program Approval (ROPA) standards. Guidelines for assembling a portfolio are included in the candidate handbook distributed at orientation.

In addition to completion of a Licensure Portfolio, students must complete the professional education coursework for the specific licensure program, with a minimum grade point average of B (3.0). A minimum grade of B must be earned in the student teaching internship in order to be recommended for licensure. A description of the curriculum is found on page 7. The coursework is designed to meet the professional education requirements for licensure. Major subject area requirements must also be completed prior to licensure. (*For most students these will have been completed prior to admission to the program.*)

Am I guaranteed licensure if I successfully complete the program?

The Vermont Department of Education requires all candidates for licensure to provide passing scores on both Praxis I and Praxis II tests. Since the Licensure Program has been approved by the Vermont Agency of Education, successful completion of the program results in a student being recommended by UVM to the Vermont Department of Education for licensure in the specific program area. To obtain a teaching license, a student must submit an application for licensure directly to the Vermont State Department of Education after completing the program. The State Department of Education will not issue a license without UVM's recommendation, passing test scores and successful finger printing and criminal records checks.

What is the Praxis I test?

Praxis I is a three-part (reading, writing, and mathematical) academic skills assessment. It is designed to measure the basic academic skills vital to all teacher candidates. It is advised that students take the Praxis I test before the start of the Licensure Masters Program, and it is required that PRAXIS I be taken prior to the student teaching internship. (*See below for the passing scores on each of the three parts of Praxis I.*)

Candidates for licensure may meet either the three individual Praxis I tests scores (ie. Reading – 177, Writing – 174, and Mathematics – 175) or a composite score of 526 (ie. the total of the three test scores).

The following assessments have been approved as alternatives to Praxis I. Students must meet both the total score as well as the minimum scores as equivalent to earning passing scores on Praxis I.

Total Score	Verbal/English	
	Math/Quantitative	
Graduate Record Exam (GRE)	1100	500
Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)	1100	500
ACT		22

For more information contact the Office of Student Services, 528 Waterman Bldg., 656-3468.

PRAXIS I TRANSITION- PLEASE READ!

Until 08/31/2014: PRAXIS I or alternative test scores (ACT, SAT, GRE) dated BEFORE 08/31/2014 will be accepted for endorsement by the College of Education and Social Services, and initial licensing by the Vermont Agency of Education.

Beginning 09/01/2014: PRAXIS Core replaces PRAXIS I/ alternative test scores as the sole exam accepted for endorsement by College of Education and Social Services, and initial licensing by the Vermont Agency of Education.

Please note: PRAXIS I or alternative test scores dated after 08/31/2014 will not be accepted for endorsement by the College of Education and Social Services, Nor initial licensing by the Vermont Agency of Education

PRAXIS II

PRAXIS II is not required for program completion but must be passed if a candidate intends to seek a license in Vermont. (For more details, please see the Vermont DOE website at: http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/licensing/testing/educ_praxis_brochure.pdf)

What are the important dates of which I should be aware?

Faculty will be notifying candidates of their decisions within 4-6 weeks of the application deadline.

Applications are accepted up until **February 1st** at the end of the business day at 4:30.

(Applications will be considered after that date only as space in the program and at school sites allows.) If accepted into the program, an applicant will need to respond within two weeks of the acceptance letter in order to confirm his or her intent to enroll in the program. Acceptance to the program will be rescinded if he or she does not respond within this time period. As noted on page 2, because of the field-based nature of the program, admission to the program is dependent on both a successful review by program faculty AND a successful interview with our field-based partners.

Applications for this program are available on the Graduate College website:
(<http://www.uvm.edu/~gradcoll/?Page=admissions.html>).

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Graduate College Application for Admission** – found on the Graduate College website. (<http://www.uvm.edu/~gradcoll/?Page=admissions.html>)
2. **Resume** – include your educational and employment experiences
3. **Statement of Purpose** – included in Graduate College application. At a minimum, two paragraphs and a maximum one and a half pages- single spaced, focusing in on your strengths and experiences working with young adolescents, your passion and commitment.
4. **Transcripts** –official transcripts from **EACH** college and university attended.
5. **Letters of Recommendation** – Three letters of recommendation using the forms found in the online Graduate College application packet. A front cover page and attached letter is recommended. Please make these letters at least and no more than one page long.
6. **Writing Sample** – (*Optional, but strongly recommended*) an example of your formal writing style – term papers, essays or articles If too large to scan, can be mailed to the Grad College at 85 South Prospect Street, 330 Waterman Bldg. Burlington, Vermont 276
7. **Resident Status Application** – Vermont Residents only; included in the online application
8. **\$40 Online Application Fee** – fee is non-refundable, to be paid online. Note: If paying by check, it can delay the application 7 to 10 days. (Continued next page).
9. **Additional Supporting Elements** – Selected materials from coursework or work experience, paid or volunteer; representations of work; reflective statements written by the applicant about his or her knowledge, skills and disposition. May be submitted online.

Note: GRE or MAT test scores are **NOT** required to enter the Licensure Masters in Curriculum and Instruction: Secondary Education Teacher Preparation Program.

Further Descriptions of Elements of Application:

Statement of Purpose: Compose a statement indicating your reasons for wishing to undertake the Licensure Program and your plans for a professional career as a teacher. Describe your commitment to working with children and young people as demonstrated by experiences you have had with children and/or young adults in both teaching and non-teaching situations, and your preparation in the discipline in which you desire licensure. You may also wish to discuss your beliefs about or approach to teaching and learning, which has evolved from your experiences and education.

Note Regarding Transcripts: As noted above, you must request official transcripts from **EACH** college and university attended and have it sent as part of your application file. If you are in the process of completing a degree, request a transcript of your work through the most recently completed semester, and include with your application the courses in which you are currently enrolled. A supplementary transcript indicating grades received for the current semester should be sent as soon as it is available.

Letters of Recommendation: A minimum of three letters is required in support of an application for the Licensure Program with two of the letters written by previous academic professors. Letters should address aspects of the applicant's qualifications which are discussed in the statement of purpose, as well as an estimate of the applicant's aptitude for graduate study, promise of professional development, general character and stability, and potential as a teacher.

Included should be how long and in what capacity the individual has known the applicant as well as the telephone number and address for follow-up contact if required by the Admissions Committee. A link will be sent to anyone writing a letter for you to submit online, so it is taken care of when submitting the application. If they have trouble uploading their letters, they may email them directly to graduate.admissions@uvm.edu

Testing: Candidates accepted in the Master's program must complete PRAXIS I or its equivalent in the fall semester of their program. PRAXIS II must be completed prior to applying for a teaching license in Vermont.

A Typical Student Program

Students who complete the program on a full-time basis enroll in the courses as follows:

Summer: (3 credits)

EDSC 207 Adolescent Development: Educational & Psychological Perspectives

Fall Semester: (13 credits)

EDSP 201 D2: Foundations of Special Education (3 credits)

EDSC 209 Practicum in Teaching (4 credits)

EDSC 215 Reading in Secondary Schools (3 credits)

EDSC 216 Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment for Secondary School Teachers

Spring Semester: (15 credits)

EDSC 226 Teaching Internship – (9 Credits)

EDSC 2XX Subject Methods – courses are specific for each subject area (3 Credits)

EDSC 230 Teaching for Results (3 Credits)

Total: 31 Semester Hours

Program Costs

How much is tuition and when do I need to be prepared to pay?

The figures below represent graduate tuition rates for the 2016-2017 academic year and Summer 2017. *These are subject to change based upon the decision of the University Board of Trustees.* Students will be expected to pay tuition on three separate occasions.

12 credit hours: in-state \$7,548; out of state \$19,080

Under 12 credit hours: in-state \$629/credit hour, out of state \$1,590/credit hour

Over 12 credit hours: in-state \$7,548 + \$629/credit hour, out of state \$19,080 +
\$1,590 for each credit hour above 12

Summer Session: 3 Credit hours

Fall Session: 13 Credit hours

Spring Session: 15 credit hours

Comprehensive and lab fees may be incurred in addition to the tuition listed above.

What are the requirements for Vermont residency?

The Vermont Legislature has established a lower rate of tuition for students who are Vermont residents. Vermont domicile must be established in order for a student to be eligible for in-state status. A student must reside in Vermont continuously for one year prior to the semester for which in-state status is granted. The burden of proof as to eligibility rests with the student and must be established by clear and convincing evidence. Complete regulations defining eligibility requirements for in-state status are listed in both the undergraduate and graduate catalogs. The residency form is part of the Graduate Application set of materials.

Is financial aid available?

Financial aid is available to eligible students in the form of guaranteed student loans and/or work study awards. Contact the Office of Financial Aid directly regarding questions of eligibility and to obtain application forms. They are located in 223 Waterman Building, and their phone number is (802) 656-5700.

Alternative Programs

Is there any other way to get licensed besides going through an approved program?

Yes. A person can contact the State Department of Education and go through a peer review process. The State Department reviews transcripts to determine which requirements have been met, and on an individual basis suggests courses to fulfill the remaining requirements. Some, but not all, of the state recommended courses could be taken at UVM. For instance, in order to be placed to student teach through UVM an individual must have been accepted into a UVM program. Hence a person going through peer review could not fulfill their student teaching requirement at UVM.

What is the difference between being recommended for licensure through the Licensure Masters Program and going directly to the State Department of Education?

The UVM program has been approved by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation Education (CAEP) and ROPA (Results Oriented Program Approval) the Vermont State - approved process. Once UVM recommends you for licensure, it means that you have completed a state-approved preparation program which is accepted in states that are part of the NASDTEC Agreement.

Is the Licensure M.A.T. Program appropriate for someone who has already completed most of the required education courses or who has extensive teaching experience?

No. The appropriate route for licensure would be to go directly to the State Department of Education for peer review.

Whom do I contact with further questions regarding the M.A.T. program?

For more information, contact:

Department of Education
Secondary Education Program
411 Waterman Building
(802) 656-1411
Mandy Russin, Administrative Support
mandy.russin@uvm.edu

Whom do I contact with further questions regarding alternative routes to licensure?

Vermont Agency of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501
DOE-EdInfo@state.vt.us

Revised January 2017