**Master of Arts in Teaching-Secondary (MATS) Checklist (Distance/Online campus)**

The MATS program is a post-baccalaureate program for individuals who wish to prepare for a career as a professional educator. The MATS program of study consists of 30 semester hours of graduate level coursework and qualifies individuals for licensure in a secondary teaching field of biology, chemistry, English, mathematics, physical education, physics, social studies, or foreign language. The curriculum includes courses in classroom management, assessment, technology, curriculum organization, instructional methodology, reading/writing across the curriculum, teaching children with exceptionalities, and a teaching internship. The program is field intensive and grounded in clinical practice carried out in a secondary public-school setting.

\*\*\*\*\*\*We are not admitting students living in the state of Georgia or Hawaii.

The MATS 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 after completion of EDS 8243, EDS 6403 and EDX 8173 and passing Praxis II scores. 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 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 MATS degree program

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

**Requirements for Enrolling in the MATS Program at MSU:**

*Please contact Stephanie Etheridge by at 662.325.1999 or 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 in Teaching Secondary** 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 secondary 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 UniversityThe Office of the Graduate SchoolP.O. Box GMississippi State, MS 39762
  + **Physical Street Address (for DHL, Fed Ex, UPS, DHS, etc.):**  
    Mississippi State UniversityThe Office of the Graduate School175 President Circle116 Allen HallMississippi 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 hours of bachelor’s 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. **MATS staff will evaluate your transcript to see if you meet the GPA requirements if you don’t have a 21 on the ACT or passing Praxis Cores scores. Please make sure to have your scores sent to MSU and MDE.**

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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 the licensure area. Please make sure to have your scores sent to MSU and Mississippi Department of Education.

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| **Area Examination/Test Code** | **Required Score on tests taken after 9/1/13** | |
|  | **test code** | **score** |
| Biology | \*5235 (5236 if taken after  August 31, 2022) | 150 (148 on 5236 if taken after  August 31, 2022) |
| Chemistry | \*5245 (5246 if taken after  August 31, 2022) | 151 (140 on 5246 if taken after  August 31, 2022) |
| Computer Science | 5652 | 149 |
| English Language Arts | 5038 | 167 |
| Mathematics | 5165 | 152 |
| Physical Educ. | 5091 | 145 |
| Physics | \*5265 ( 5266 if taken after  August 31, 2022) | 139 (140 on 5266 if taken after  August 31, 2022) |
| Social Studies | 5081 | 150 |
| Foreign Language tests |  | \*Contact the MATS office for information |

* Scores on the biology, chemistry and physics tests will be accepted for licensure through August 31, 2024 if the tests were taken before August 31, 2022.

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,](https://mycb.castlebranch.com/Enter%20Package%20Code%20MI43) and submit a copy to Stephanie Etheridge, setheridge@colled.msstate.edu

**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 MATS 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 are hired in a position based on an endorsement rather than on their initial licensure area. The content methods course and Internship I and II must be completed in the content area in which the student was admitted.

* All students admitted to the MATS program must complete the CISE Graduate Student Orientation.
* Graduation from the MATS program requires the successful completion of all coursework and passing scores on the capstone experience which 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 MATS 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.

**MATS Courses 30 Semester Hours**

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

# Initial Licensure Courses

**EDS 8243 Advanced Planning and Managing of Learning (3 credit hours)**

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

**EDS 6403 Evaluation in Secondary Schools (3 credit hours)**

A study of critical assessment practices in secondary education through the use of data to inform instruction. Particular attention will be given to discipline specific pedagogy for evaluation of student learning in secondary classrooms.

**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.

# Core Courses

**EDS 8103 Adv. Methodologies in Middle and Secondary Education (3 credit hours)** Advanced study of pedagogical methods and teaching practices.

Understanding the process of integrating technology into instructional practice.

Research-based methods for the integration of technology to enhance learning.

**EDS 8623 Principles of Effective Instruction (3 credit hours)**

An examination of the theories, trends, best practices, issues, challenges, and complexities pertinent to teaching and learning in secondary schools.

**RDG 8653 Teaching Reading in the Secondary Schools (3 credit hours)**

A study of reading problems of middle and upper-level students. A study of technology, materials, and methods used in developmental reading for secondary students.

**EDS 8613 Middle and Secondary School Curriculum (3 credit hours)**

Principles of curriculum construction as they apply to the middle and secondary schools for the various subject areas.

# Courses Requiring a Teaching Position

**EDS 6633/6643/6653/6673 Secondary Methods of Teaching (3 credit hours)**

A comprehensive examination of the effective practices for teaching and evaluating a subject matter in secondary education.

**Internship I (3 credit hours)**

Supervised observation and directed teaching in respective field of endorsement.

**Internship II (3 credit hours)**

Supervised observation and directed teaching in respective field of endorsement.

***NOTE:*** Candidates must secure a full-time classroom teaching position in a Mississippi public school. Candidates must complete the content methods course, Internship I and Internship II in the content area they declare to be their concentration area.

**Program Notes**:

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| **MATS Program Requirements for Math Endorsement**    Any 18 hours of coursework with a math prefix (College Algebra and higher) will meet requirements for a middle school math endorsement. The middle school endorsement does not allow you to teach Algebra or any higher math. The secondary internship cannot be completed in math with the middle school endorsement. A secondary math endorsement requires passing scores on Praxis 5165, or the classes listed below. A grade of C or higher is required in all math classes.  **Calculus -** MA 1713 Calculus I **and** MA 1723 Calculus II  **Advanced Algebra Course-** MA 3113 Introduction to Linear Algebra  **Statistics -** MA/ST 3123 Introduction to Statistical Inference  **Geometry -** MA 3463 Foundations of Geometry  **Foundations -** MA 3053 Foundations of Mathematics  **Methods -** EDS 3633 Secondary Mathematics Education |