

# Master of Arts in Teaching

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The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) is a secondary education certification program intended to prepare students for a career in teaching. It is an intensive experience for the dedicated graduate student who has both academic preparation in a content area taught in the public schools and significant life experience. The secondary education certificate program integrates coursework and field experiences to meet Alaska and national teacher education standards. Graduates of the secondary education program are prepared to become educators who are:

- Excited about teaching and learning in content-based classrooms.
- Committed to a life of thoughtful practice.
- Dedicated to working with all children, their families and support personnel.
- Knowledgeable in the appropriate subject matter and skilled in how to teach it.
- Committed to the highest standards of professional ethics.

## Admission Requirements

Satisfy the Admissions Requirements for Graduate Degrees (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/academicpoliciesprocesses/admissions/graduate>).

The application deadline for the secondary education certification program is April 15. Students must apply for admission to both the University of Alaska Anchorage and the College of Education. An application packet is on the college website (<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/coe>).

Applicants for the secondary education certification program must meet subject area requirements for a teaching endorsement.

Approved secondary (7-12) teaching endorsement areas for the secondary education certification program are:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth science
- English/language arts
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Social studies
- World languages (this endorsement is for a specific language)

Approved K-12 teaching endorsement areas for the secondary education certification program are:

- Music
- Physical education

Please note that teaching endorsements must be completed in accordance with the approved standards-based Initial Endorsement Content Preparation Review on file in the College of Education. With

faculty advisor approval, coursework may be taken before formal admission to the secondary education certification program.

Undergraduates interested in applying to the program should see a College of Education faculty advisor early in their program to ensure that subject matter courses taken to fulfill undergraduate degree requirements meet the content preparation standards required by the college's accrediting association. Additional subject matter coursework may be required before an applicant can be accepted to the MAT. Therefore, individuals with baccalaureate degrees who are considering a career change to become a teacher should see a faculty advisor at least one year before applying to the program.

Admission to the program is competitive and based on a review of the applicant's credentials. Applicants must complete the secondary education certification program application packet available from the College of Education. It must include the following:

- Verification of a baccalaureate with an expected minimum of a 3.00 GPA in the baccalaureate degree or subsequent graduate-level coursework. Undergraduates may apply during senior year with anticipated graduation in May.
- Passing scores on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination or other basic competency exam requirement approved by the Alaska Department of Early Education and Development (EED) (<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/TeacherCertification>).
- Scores from the relevant content knowledge Praxis II examination. Contact the College of Education for details.
- Demonstrated evidence of content area preparation in the teaching area for which the applicant is seeking endorsement, including the Initial Endorsement Content Preparation Review that has been signed by an appropriate College of Education faculty advisor.
- An essay addressing questions based on the secondary education certification program purpose and outcomes, as described in the application packet.
- Two letters of recommendation that speak directly to the applicant's qualifications and experience with children and adolescents to be admitted to the secondary education certification program and her/his choice of teaching as a career. At least one of the letters should address the academic expertise in the endorsement area.

## Additional Requirements

Applicants accepted for admission must:

- Submit an application form for admission to the advanced practicum and internship. Contact the College of Education for appropriate deadlines.
- Demonstrate relevant content knowledge competency through successful completion of a baccalaureate degree and a passing score on the Praxis II examination. Contact the College of Education for details.
- Submit completed State of Alaska Student Teacher Certification Authorization application form. The State of Alaska requires fingerprinting and a background check prior to internships in the public schools. The College of Education requires compliance with specific background clearance policies and procedures for candidates participating in university-sponsored fieldwork. Failure

to pass the criminal history background check or failure to comply with the College of Education background check requirements will result in removal from the program. For more information see the College of Education website (<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/coe/currentstudents/field-experiences/background-checks.cfm>).

- Submit documentation of a current physical examination.
- Maintain health insurance throughout advanced practicum and internship. Candidates may purchase insurance through UAA.

Qualified applicants are accepted on a space-available basis. Admission to the secondary education certification program does not guarantee admission to the advanced practicum or internship.

## Academic Requirements

Students enrolled in the secondary education certification program must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00, with no individual course grade lower than a C, or B where specified. EDFN A478 and EDFN A649 require a minimum grade of B. Courses with grades less than a C, including those used to demonstrate content knowledge on the Initial Endorsement Content Preparation Review, may not be applied to meet certification or endorsement requirements. Satisfactory progress on all standards must be demonstrated in the internship courses to remain in the program.

## Graduation Requirements

- Satisfy the General University Requirements for Graduate Degrees (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/degreerequirements>).
- Complete the program requirements below.

## Program Requirements

There are two grade level options in the secondary education certification program: secondary education (7-12) and K-12. The grade level option an applicant selects is based on the teaching endorsement area.

### Secondary Education 7-12

Teaching endorsement areas are:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth science
- English/language arts
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Social studies
- World languages

| Code                      | Title   | Credits |
|---------------------------|---|---------|
| <b>Foundation Courses</b> |   |         |
| EDFN A478                 | Issues in Alaska Native Education, K-12 *     | 3       |
| EDFN A601                 | Educational Philosophy, History and Sociology | 3       |

| <b>Core Courses</b> |  |   |
|---------------------|--|---|
| EDFN A641           | Place, Culture and Responsibility                          | 3 |
| EDFN A649           | Capstone Seminar: Inquiry in Teaching and Learning *       | 2 |
| EDSE A637           | Inclusive Teaching and Learning in Content Area Classrooms | 3 |
| EDSY A644           | Learning Environments in Secondary Classrooms              | 3 |
| EDSY A648           | Developing Literacies in the 21st Century Classroom        | 3 |

| <b>Methods Courses</b>         |   |   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| EDSY A661                      | Assessment in Secondary Classrooms                  | 3 |
| Select one of the following: 3 |   |   |
| EDSY A663                      | Teaching English/Language Arts in Secondary Schools |   |
| EDSY A664                      | Teaching Social Studies in Secondary Schools        |   |
| EDSY A665                      | Teaching Mathematics in Secondary Schools           |   |
| EDSY A667                      | Teaching World Language in Secondary Schools        |   |
| EDSY A669                      | Teaching Science in Secondary Schools               |   |

| <b>Field Experiences</b> |            |    |
|--------------------------|------------|----|
| EDFN A695                | Internship | 9  |
| Total Credits            |            | 35 |

\* *Minimum grade of B required. With departmental approval, EDFN A478 may be taken before formal admission to the secondary education certification program. If EDFN A478 is taken as part of an undergraduate program, it may be waived for the program.*

Candidates must also successfully complete a comprehensive portfolio demonstrating that they have met all of the applicable standards and a content-specific comprehensive exam.

A total of 35 credits is required for the degree.

### K-12

Teaching endorsements areas are:

- Music
- Physical education

| Code                      | Title   | Credits |
|---------------------------|---|---------|
| <b>Foundation Courses</b> |   |         |
| EDFN A478                 | Issues in Alaska Native Education, K-12 *     | 3       |
| EDFN A601                 | Educational Philosophy, History and Sociology | 3       |
| <b>Core Courses</b>       |   |         |
| EDFN A641                 | Place, Culture and Responsibility             | 3       |

|  |  |    |
|--|--|----|
| EDFN A649                              | Capstone Seminar: Inquiry in Teaching and Learning *                                 | 2  |
| EDSE A637                              | Inclusive Teaching and Learning in Content Area Classrooms                           | 3  |
| EDSY A644                              | Learning Environments in Secondary Classrooms  | 3  |
| EDSY A648                              | Developing Literacies in the 21st Century Classroom                                  | 3  |
| <b>Methods Classes</b>                 |  |    |
| Select one of the following sequences: |  | 6  |
| MUS A668A & MUS A668B                  | Methods for Teaching Music I, K-12 and Methods for Teaching Music II, K-12           |    |
| PEP A645 & PEP A646                    | Methods in Elementary Physical Education and Methods in Secondary Physical Education |    |
| <b>Field Experiences</b>               |  |    |
| EDFN A695                              | Internship   | 9  |
| Total Credits                          |  | 35 |

\* *Minimum grade of B required. With departmental approval, EDFN A478 may be taken before formal admission to the program. If EDFN A478 is taken as part of an undergraduate program, it may be waived for the program.*

Candidates must also successfully complete a comprehensive portfolio demonstrating that they have met all of the applicable standards and a content-specific comprehensive exam.

A total of 35 credits is required for the degree.

### Professional Field Experiences

The secondary education program includes a comprehensive internship experience in an educational setting. Internship placements are arranged and supervised by university faculty in partnership with the principal and staff from the public school. University coursework and classroom practice are closely linked and communication about performance in both the coursework and classroom practice is shared among the partners.

Performance in the internship must meet stated competencies and individual outcomes. Performance evaluations determine the candidate's progress toward meeting the State of Alaska Standards for Beginning Teachers, the Alaska Standards for Culturally Responsive Schools, and the specialized professional associations.

It is expected that interns will demonstrate appropriate professional dispositions with respect to their actions, attitudes and performance. Teacher candidates are required to abide by the State of Alaska Code of Ethics of the Education Profession. Unacceptable academic performance, an unprofessional attitude, unsatisfactory field reports, violation of professional ethics or other factors may result in removal from the field experience and denial of the institutional recommendation for teacher certification.

Internship placements are made in partnership with participating school districts, which may request additional information and/or preparation from university candidates according to the district's established policies and practices. Because cooperating districts also determine the number of placements available for candidates, placement may become competitive if the number of applicants exceeds the number of spaces. Districts also reserve the right to refuse or terminate placements when candidates do not meet a minimum standard of performance. While the university will make every effort to identify appropriate field experiences, admission to the secondary program does not guarantee an internship placement. The university offers placements across the state of Alaska. Out-of-state placements will require additional approvals and are not guaranteed.

### Institutional Recommendation

To obtain an institutional recommendation for teacher certification, candidates must have:

- Completed all program courses with a minimum grade of C, or B where specified.
- Maintained a cumulative 3.00 GPA in the secondary education certification program.
- Achieved passing scores on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators and II examinations or other EED-approved highly qualified exams requirement (<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/TeacherCertification>).
- Satisfactorily completed internships.
- Met all standards listed in the standards-based Initial Endorsement Content Preparation Review.

Alaska certification note: Certification is awarded by the State of Alaska through the Alaska EED in Juneau. Graduates must meet all requirements specified by EED at the time of application for certificate.

### Program Student Learning Outcomes

Student outcomes for the program are based on the Alaska Beginning Teacher Standards (ABTS) ([http://www.eed.state.ak.us/standards/pdf/beginning\\_teachers.pdf](http://www.eed.state.ak.us/standards/pdf/beginning_teachers.pdf)) and Alaska Standards for Culturally Responsive Schools (CS) (<http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/publications/standards.html>) and the specialized professional associations. Students graduating with a Master of Arts in Teaching will be able to:

- Demonstrate and examine how their educational philosophy affects their teaching in the classroom. (ABTS 1, CS I)
- Demonstrate application of learning theory, effective instructional planning and practice, and assessment processes for all students. (ABTS 2, 5, CS II, V)
- Demonstrate knowledge of the individual and cultural diversity in Alaskan communities and schools and apply that knowledge in educational practice. (ABTS 3, CS III)
- Demonstrate content and pedagogical knowledge in the endorsement area as specified by the appropriate Specialized Professional Association (SPA) - NCTM, NSTA, NCSS, NCTE, ACTFL, NASM, etc. (ABTS 4, CS IV)
- Demonstrate technological knowledge and proficiency to enhance instructional practice. (ABTS 5, CS V)

- Demonstrate an appropriate learning environment including effective classroom management. (ABTS 6, CS VI)
- Demonstrate participation in and contribution to the profession by maintaining high professional standards, including collaboration and communication (both oral and written), with all stakeholders in the university and school community. (ABTS 7, 8, CS III, VII, VIII)
- Complete the MAT program and receive an Institutional Recommendation for initial licensure. (ABTS 1-8, CS I-VIII)