MAT ACCELERATED
FAQ’S

What is the MAT accelerated program?
The MAT is a full-time graduate program designed for teacher candidates who wish

to complete a master’s degree and initial teacher certification in one year.

What certification areas are available?
Elementary Education (K-5) or secondary school (grades 9-12) subject specific
certification (e.g. English, math, biology, chemistry, physical science, social studies);
(K-12 Art, Music, Health and Physical Education, Spanish and Chinese).

When does the program start and end?
The program starts in May and is completed by the following May.

Can I work while completing the program?
Successful candidates will need to make a fulltime commitment to the accelerated
program. Significant coursework and fieldwork is required each semester. If you
must work the MAT traditional program is a better option.

What if I can’t complete the MAT accelerated program?
You may transfer to the MAT traditional program.

Will all my MAT courses count if I have to move to the MAT traditional?
Yes, provided you stay in the same certification program.

What are the admission requirements for the MAT accelerated?
The requirements are a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution, appropriate
content coursework for the area of certification and a passing score on the
appropriate Praxis II test (s) and any other state requirement for certification.

What is appropriate coursework for elementary certification?
A liberal arts, science, dual content or interdisciplinary academic major or a
minimum of 60 semester hour credits in liberal arts and/or science.

Are there specific courses needed for elementary certification?
Yes, a minimum of 6 credits in mathematics, 7-8 credits of science to include 4
credits in lab science, 9 credits in literature and composition, and 9 credits in history
or social science.

What is appropriate coursework for secondary subject certification?
At least 30 credits in a comprehensive cohesive sequence or a major in the subject
area.

What does “30 credits in a coherent sequence” mean?
If you wish to pursue secondary certification you must possess a minimum of 30
credits in the content area you wish to be certified in. For example, if you are
interested in math certification you will need 30 credits in mathematics with at least
12 credits completed at the 300-400 level. Certification in art, biology, chemistry,
English, music, and Spanish subject areas are similar as described below.

What if I want to teach social studies?
Secondary certification in social studies requires the following: 15 credits in history,
3 credits in economics, and 12 credits in the social sciences.

What is included in the social sciences?
Anthropology, geography, sociology, psychology, political science, philosophy
What if I went to teach Physical Science?
Secondary certification in Physical science requires 30 credits in chemistry, 15 credits in physics and 8 credits in mathematics for this sequence in the subject area.

What if I want to teach special education?
Special Education certification, known as the Teacher of Students’ with Disabilities Endorsement (TSD), requires the completion of the initial certification first.

Can I take Teacher of Students with Disabilities (TSD) while completing the MAT accelerated program?
No, the accelerated coursework is completed in one year and does not allow for any additional coursework. However, you may apply to the MAT Traditional program instead and complete TSD while matriculating in the MAT.

What if I want to teach Spanish or Chinese?
Spanish is subject to the same requirements for secondary subject certification, but an additional test is required: The OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview). The OPI is required for the Chinese certification.

What if I want to teach English as a Second Language (ESL)?
The ESL endorsement requires the completion of an initial certification first.

Can I take ESL courses while completing the MAT accelerated program? No, the accelerated coursework is completed in year and does not allow for any additional coursework. However, you may apply to the MAT Traditional Program and two of the courses in that program count toward the credit requirement for the ESL endorsement.

Why is Art, Music, Health and Physical Education, Spanish and Chinese considered K-12 and the other secondary subject areas are not?
The teacher of these subject areas is considered the subject “specialist” and is trained to teach all grade levels.

What if I want to teach middle school?
The MAT Traditional K5, 5-8 program is available.

What if I want to teach preschool or kindergarten only?
The MAT Traditional program for Early Childhood and Elementary certification is available.

What if I want to teach elementary school?
The MAT Accelerated and MAT Traditional programs are available at this time and require a minimum of 60 college credits.

How will I know if I have the content coursework for certification?
A transcript review will be conducted to determine appropriate coursework.

I have a degree in: psychology, communications, business. Am I eligible for the MAT accelerated elementary program?
Yes, if you have degree, GPA, Praxis and appropriate content course requirements for the area of certification.

What grade levels can I teach with certification at the secondary level?
Content Instructional Certificate holders (Teacher of Biology, Teacher of English, Teacher of Mathematics, etc) can accept teaching assignments (employment) for grades 5-8 in a departmentalized setting or grades 9-12 in a departmentalized setting.
How many credits in that MAT accelerated program?
There are 36 credits in the MAT accelerated program including 9 credits for student teaching.

If I don’t have all the requirements for the accelerated program, can I still apply to the program?
You may apply to any other MAT Traditional program.

I took a praxis test 10 years ago, does it still count?
For a complete list of the current New Jersey Department of Education’s test requirements go to www.ets.org/praxis.

If I have a “Certificate of Eligibility” will I automatically be accepted into the MAT accelerated?
Not necessarily. The School of Education requires that each student have the appropriate content coursework in the certification area in order to meet NCATE, NCLB, NJPTS, NJCCCS and CCSS.

Should I seek a substitute teaching license?
It is strongly recommended.

How long is student teaching?
Student teaching is a full time, full semester field experience. For MAT accelerated students it will start in January and end in May.

Do I find my own placement for student teaching?
No, the Office Student Teaching, Field Placements, and School Partnerships will find your placement, based on your area of certification.

Will it be close to where I live?
Every effort will be made to find you an appropriate placement within Monmouth, Ocean, or Middlesex County.

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