



# Exceptional Child Education (MAT) (Online)

## Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)

The Master of Arts in Teaching in Exceptional Child Education at Southeast Missouri State University is an online graduate degree that offers two emphasis areas: Mild/Moderate Cross-Categorical and Early Childhood Special Education. This program is designed for someone who does not have an undergraduate degree in education or a teaching certificate. This graduate program leads to an initial teaching certificate in either Mild/Moderate Cross Categorical (K – 12) or Early Childhood Special Education (Birth – 3<sup>rd</sup> gr.). The MAT program in Exceptional Child Education has 53 credit hours of online course work, including two 1-credit hour field experiences and a 12-week student teaching practicum.

Southeast Missouri State University is consistently recognized for academic excellence by the U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges Rankings for institutions in the Midwest and is fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. In addition, the College of Education has received national recognition for excellence from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), & Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI). This recognition highlights the College of Education's commitment of providing education of the highest quality and standards to students.

Graduate education at Southeast is guaranteed quality at an affordable price. Southeast offers competitive tuition rates for graduate students, compared to other online graduate programs. For online programs, a flat tuition rate is charged for both in-state and out-of-state students, making it an affordable program regardless of where a student lives.

### MAT in Exceptional Child students will...

- Earn a Masters degree while also receiving an initial teaching certificate in either Mild/Moderate Cross-Categorical Education or Early Childhood Special Education
- Complete course work online and at their own pace
- Complete field experiences, supervised virtually by education faculty
- Complete a practical research project relating to teaching in special education
- Get personal attention from a faculty advisor with expertise in the area of study

### Career Planning

Graduates of this program may find new teaching opportunities with the increased expertise and certification. Special education is a high demand field, with teachers certified in special education finding jobs easily. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that employment opportunities for K – 12 special education teachers are expected to grow by 6%. Additionally, children with disabilities are being identified at an earlier age, with an expected 16% increase in demand for early childhood special education teachers

### Internship Opportunities

Students in this program will complete internships in classrooms with students of varying ages and abilities. The Mild/Moderate Cross Categorical emphasis area (K – 12) requires field experiences at both the elementary and secondary levels, and the Early Childhood Special Education emphasis area (Birth – 3<sup>rd</sup> gr.) requires field work with three age levels: infant/toddler, preschool, and K – 3 primary grades. Students will work under the supervision of a certified special education teacher.

### Admission Requirements

- 2.75 Cumulative Undergraduate GPA
- Pre-Requisite Courses:  
PY 120 The Child or PY 521 Advanced Child Development (or equivalent course)  
EX 390 Psychology of the Exceptional Child or EX 635 Psychology of the Exceptional Child (or equivalent course)

- Completion of Missouri Educator Profile (MEP)

- Passing score on admission exam:

Mild/Moderate Cross Categorical emphasis area:  
Passing Score: 007 – 010 Elementary Education MO  
Content Assessment

OR

Early Childhood Special Education emphasis area:  
Passing Score: 064 Early Childhood Education MO  
Content Assessment

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This is a guide based on the 2016-2017 Graduate Bulletin and is subject to change. The degree program is designed to be completed in five semesters including summer. Students should contact an academic advisor each semester and use DegreeWorks to monitor their progress. Students may begin the degree during any semester including the Spring

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### CURRICULUM CHECKLIST

- \_\_\_ EX 618 Intro to Children with Exceptionalities
- \_\_\_ EX 619 Intro. To Mild Moderate Cross Categorical Internship
- \_\_\_ EX 601 Educational Assessment
- \_\_\_ EX 652 Tech. of Teach the Mild/Moderate Cross-Categorical
- \_\_\_ EL 644 Process of Reading
- \_\_\_ EX 602 Language Acquisition of Exceptional Children
- \_\_\_ EX 507 Families and the Exceptional Child
- \_\_\_ EX 693 Special Ed and the Law
- \_\_\_ EL 615 Action Research
- \_\_\_ EX 621 Behavior Intervention Strategies
- \_\_\_ EX 622 Behavior Intervention Strategies Internship
- \_\_\_ EL 606 Curriculum Construction in a Multicultural Society
- \_\_\_ EX 696 Exceptional Child Education Advanced Internship
- \_\_\_ GR 698 Master's Capstone Project

#### Choose one Emphasis Area:

##### Mild/Moderate Cross-Categorical Emphasis (K – 12):

- \_\_\_ EL 608 Diag. and Rem. Of Difficulties in Learning Math
- \_\_\_ EL 629 Literature Across the Curriculum
- \_\_\_ EL 647 Reading Assessment
- \_\_\_ EX 691 Transition Plan. for Ind. w/ Exceptional Learn Needs
- \_\_\_ SE 602 Effective Literacy Instruct. at the Mid. And Sec. Level

##### Early Childhood Special Education Emphasis (Birth – 3<sup>rd</sup> gr):

- \_\_\_ CE 634 Assessing young Child Learning and Development
- \_\_\_ CE 530 Foundations of Early Childhood Special Education
- \_\_\_ CE 605 Issues and Trends in Early Childhood Education
- \_\_\_ EL 603 Teaching Elementary School Mathematics
- \_\_\_ CE 610 Curriculum, Methods, and Prog. Man. in Early Child

**Total: 53 credit hours**

### Recommended Sequence of Required Course Work

Because of the intensive work load for this program, graduate students will work closely with an advisor to take the appropriate sequence of courses, including clinical experiences. The field work must be completed in the K – 12 setting, under the supervision of a certified special education teacher and qualified university supervisor. This field work may be done in the graduate student's workplace, if the setting meets the requirements. The general course sequence for all students completing the required clinical experiences is:

- Early Internship: EX 619 (1)
- Mid-Level Internship: EX 622 (1)
- Culminating Practicum: EX 696 (8)
- Capstone Research Project: EL 615 (3) and GR 698 (0)

### Certification requirements:

- Passing score on MoPTA completed in EX 696 Advanced Internship
- 3.0 Cumulative GPA

#### Mild/Moderate Cross Categorical emphasis area (K – 12):

- Passing score on MO Content Exam – 050 Mild Moderate Cross Categorical (Must be completed prior to EX 696 Advanced Internship)

OR

#### Early Childhood Special Education emphasis area (Birth – 3<sup>rd</sup> gr.):

- Passing score on MO Content Exam – 049 Early Childhood Special Education (Must be completed prior to EX 696 Advanced Internship)