

**Master of Arts (MA)**

The Master of Arts in Elementary Education is an online graduate degree that offers three emphasis areas: Reading, Math/Science, and Early Childhood Education. (A fourth emphasis area as an Elementary Math Specialist is not fully online.) The program is designed to help classroom teachers deepen their teaching skills and knowledge in their field of expertise, or expand their background into a new teaching area and/or certification. While this graduate program does not lead to an initial teaching certification, it does offer an advanced Missouri teaching certificate as a Reading Specialist (K – 12) or Math Specialist (1 – 6). The Math/Science and Early Childhood emphasis areas include electives that offer flexibility in tailoring a program to meet graduate students' interests. The graduate program in Elementary Education has 30 credit hours of online course work, making the program convenient for busy classroom teachers.

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.

**Becoming Career Ready...**

/Students complete course work online and at their own pace and choose an emphasis area of study that meets their career interests and needs.

/Students complete research relating to issues in their own teaching.

/Students can choose to earn additional Missouri teaching certificates as a Reading Specialist or Math Specialist.

/Students get personal attention from a faculty advisor with expertise in their area of study.

**Career Planning**

Graduates of this program may find new teaching opportunities with the increased expertise or certification. Teachers with this master's degree are often considered leaders in their school setting and may also become curriculum specialists or team leaders.

**Internship and Employment Opportunities of Recent Graduates/ Graduate Schools and Programs of Recent Graduates**

- Reading Specialist
  - Cape Girardeau School District
  - Jackson School District
  - Mehlville School District
- Literacy Interventionist / Reading Recovery teacher
  - Jefferson City School District
- English Language Arts Instructional Coach
  - Steelville School District

**Admission Requirements**

1. An undergraduate GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale
2. A valid classroom teaching certificate OR a qualifying score on the state content exam appropriate for that certificate OR be in the 50th percentile verbal and analytic components of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)  
**Note:** This program does not lead to initial teacher licensure.

An applicant having the prerequisite GPA of 2.75 may be given provisional admission prior to completion of all steps in the admission process. The program admission process must be completed within one calendar year. Failure to do so will result in reclassification as a non-degree student. Reinstatement to degree-seeking status will require a new application for admission. Courses taken prior to full admission will not necessarily be accepted toward meeting degree requirements.

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This is a guide based on the 2020-2021 Graduate Bulletin and is subject to change. The time it takes to earn a degree will vary based on factors such as dual enrollment, remediation, and summer enrollment. Students meet with an academic advisor each semester and use Degree Works to monitor their progress.

**CURRICULUM CHECKLIST****ELEMENTARY EDUCATION – 30 Hours – 3.25 GPA Required****Required core courses:**

- EL 615 Research in Action (3)
- EX 601 Educational Assessment (3)
- GR 698 Master's Final Comprehensive Examination (0)

**Choose one course:**

- CE 614 Family / School Collaboration (3)
- EX 507 Family and Child with Exceptionalities (3)

**Choose one emphasis area:****Early Childhood Emphasis**

- CE 605 Issues and Trends in Early Childhood Education (3)
  - CE 610 Curriculum, Methods, & Program Management in Early Childhood Education (3)
  - CE 634 Informal Assessment (3)
  - EL 606 Curriculum Construction in a Multicultural Society (3)
  - EX 556 Communication Intervention and Strategies for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (3)
- OR

- EX602 Language Acquisition for the Exceptional Child (3)

Electives: 6 hours (Suggested electives related to young children)

**Math/Science Emphasis**

- EL 603 Teaching Elementary Mathematics (3)
  - EL 604 Techniques of Teaching Science in the Elementary School (3)
  - EL 606 Curriculum Construction in a Multicultural Society (3)
  - EL 608 Diagnosis and Remediation of Difficulties in Learning Mathematics (3)
- Electives: 9 hours (Suggested electives in math/science)

**Reading Emphasis**

- EL 611 Practicum I: Younger Literacy Learners (3)
- EL 623 Practicum II: Older Literacy Learners (3)
- EL 624 Effective Literacy Leadership (3)
- EL 644 Understanding and Applying the Multi-dimensional processes of Reading (3)
- EL 646 Inquiry & Research Model Used to Improve Reading (3)
- EL 647 Reading Assessment (3)
- SE 602 Effective Literacy Instruction at the Middle and Secondary Level (3)

**Math Specialist Emphasis\***

- EL 615 Research in Action (3)
- EL 667 Mathematical Leadership for Elementary Mathematics Specialists: Foundations (2)
- EL 668 Mathematical Leadership for Elementary Mathematics Specialists: Influencing and Facilitating Improvement (3)
- EX 601 Educational Assessment (3)
- MD 611 Internship in Numbers and Operations (1)
- MD 612 Internship: Rational Numbers and Proportional Thinking (1)
- MD 616 Internship in Geometry and Measurement (1)
- MD 617 Internship in Algebraic Reasoning (1)
- MD 621 Numbers and Operations (3)
- MD 622 Rational Numbers and Proportional Thinking (3)
- MD 624 Data and Probability (3)
- MD 626 Geometry and Measurement (3)
- MD 627 Algebraic Reasoning (3)

\*Statewide collaborative program

**Recommended sequence of required coursework**

Although students may complete this program at their own pace and sequence, these courses do have pre-requisites:

- EL647 Reading Assessment (pre-requisites – EL 644 Understanding and Applying the Multi-dimensional processes of Reading and EL 646 Inquiry & Research Model Used to Improve Reading)
- EL 611 and EL 623 Early and Older Literacy Practicum (pre-requisite – EL 647 Reading Assessment)
- EL 615 Research in Action (pre-requisite - EX 601 Educational Assessment)
- GR 698 Action Research Project (pre-requisite - EL 615 Research in Action)

**Degree Requirements**

- The Reading Emphasis Area requires practicums with young children and older students. These may be completed in the graduate students' school setting.

**Certification Requirements**

- Additional courses are required for MO Special Reading Certification (K –12), depending upon undergraduate course work completed. This certificate also requires valid MO Teaching Certificate and two (2) years teaching experience.
- Additional requirements for those seeking the MO Elementary Math Specialist (1 – 6) certificate:
  - A. A valid Missouri permanent or professional certificate of license to teach; and
  - B. Two (2) years of successful mathematics teaching experience;
  - C. Must have recommendation of designated official for teacher education in the college or university with an approved program of study
  - D. Must complete the content knowledge or specialty area test designated by the State Board of Education with a score equal to or greater than the Missouri Qualifying Score.