

AMAT: SPECIAL EDUCATION + ELEMENTARY CERTIFICATION (MAT)

Program Description

Division of Education Faculty (<https://spu.edu/academics/college-humanities-education-arts/faculty-staff?d=Education>)

Division of Education Master's Programs Website (<https://spu.edu/academics/college-humanities-education-arts/graduate-programs/masters-programs>)

The Accelerated Master of Arts in Teaching (AMAT) (<https://spu.edu/academics/college-humanities-education-arts/graduate-programs/certification-programs/accelerated-masters-of-arts-in-teaching>) program at SPU integrates Washington Residency Teacher Certification (<https://www.k12.wa.us/certification/teacher-certificate>) with a Master of Arts in Teaching degree. Candidates in the AMAT program become effective teachers by:

- Demonstrating effective and equitable teaching practices
- Centering instruction on high expectations for student achievement, including culturally responsive teaching practices
- Recognizing and responding to individual student learning needs
- Providing clear and intentional focus on subject matter content and curriculum
- Fostering and managing a safe, positive, and inclusive learning environment
- Using multiple student data elements to modify instruction and improve student learning
- Communicating and collaborating with parents and the school community
- Exhibiting collaborative and collegial practices focused on improving instruction and learning
- Developing professional wellness habits in order to persist and thrive in the teaching profession

Alternative Routes

The AMAT program recognizes the alternative routes to certification that have been identified by the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) (<http://www.pesb.wa.gov/>). These routes are for individuals who possess a unique set of qualifications and wish to earn a Washington state Residency Certificate. SPU is approved to offer Routes 2, 3, and 4. Students should refer to the PESB Alternative Routes site (<https://www.pesb.wa.gov/pathways-workforce-development/future-educators/alternative-routes-to-teacher-certification/>) for more information.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must submit the following items to the Graduate Admissions (<http://spu.edu/graduate-admissions>).

- Online application (<http://admissions.spu.edu/apply/>) and \$50 application processing fee.
- Official transcript(s) from each college or university attended.
 - If your degree is not from a U.S. college or university, please arrange for your transcript to be evaluated by a NACES member

(<http://www.naces.org/>)-recognized credential service.

Acceptable credential services include, but are not limited to, World Education Services (<http://www.wes.org/>) (WES) and Foundation for International Services (<http://www.fis-web.com/>) (FIS).

- Personal statement (1–2 pages).
- Résumé.
- Two to four letters of recommendation.
- Preferred WEST-B (http://www.west.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/WA095_TestPage.html) scores including 240 on each sub-test: reading, writing, and mathematics.
 - Applicants may use a combination of SAT, ACT, and WEST-B scores to meet the WEST-B requirement (reading writing, mathematics). Please contact Graduate Admissions (<http://spu.edu/graduate-admissions>) if you have questions.
 - Minimum SAT scores required: Math: 515, Reading: 500, Writing: 490.
 - Minimum ACT scores required: Math: 22, Reading: 22, Writing: 8.
- Taking the State Endorsement Tests (http://www.west.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Tests.html)
 - You must take the endorsement test(s) for your intended endorsement area(s). Tests should be passed prior to the start of the graduate teacher education program.
 - Those endorsing in *special education*, *designated world languages*, and *English language learners*, must pass those specific exams by September 1 of the second year of the program.
 - Those endorsing in *designated world languages* or *bilingual education* must also pass oral and writing proficiency tests (OPI and WPT (<http://www.languagetesting.com/academic-services>)) in their language area.
 - Several NES study guides are located on the main floor Reference section of SPU's Ames Library (<http://spu.edu/library>). If admitted, you may use your SPU account to check out online study guides from the library.
- Verify endorsement readiness
 - Endorsements are the content and grade levels a teacher is prepared to teach. The Professional Education Standards Board (PESB) (<http://www.pesb.wa.gov/preparation-programs/standards/endorsement-competencies/>) provides a comprehensive list of all endorsements offered at SPU.
 - If your college major matches your intended endorsement, complete the Endorsement Verification form in the application.
 - If your major does not match your intended endorsement, please contact The Certification Office (soe-cert@spu.edu). Complete the Endorsement Verification form only after contacting the Certification Office. On the form, indicate that you have been in contact with the Certification Office and list your "Approved Plan of Study" if one has been developed.
- Moral Character and Personal Fitness Policy form (found in the online application).

Applicants with complete files submitted by the deadline are screened for interviews held in April. Invitations to interview are sent by email.

Contact

If you have questions about graduate education or certification programs:

- Email: gradadmissions@spu.edu
- Phone: 206-281-2091

Internship

Full-time, supervised internship begins in February during the second year. Candidates are paired with a mentor teacher and university field supervisor in a school setting. Additional field-based work includes a 40-hour spring field experience in the first year of the program and a 20-hour autumn field experience beginning the second year of the program.

Candidates and mentor teachers follow a co-teaching model during internship, where responsibility for planning, instruction, management, and assessment is shared. Candidates begin internship with focused observations and progress to independent teaching. Across internship, you will complete assignments designed to maximize learning from field experiences, such as a classroom management plan, internship reflections, lesson plans, a family engagement plan, and program assessments. Internship concludes with you returning control of classroom responsibilities to your mentor teacher.

Completion of the MAT Degree

Candidates earn the MAT degree by completing 1 additional graduate-level course, totaling 3 credits. This class is taken at the regular graduate tuition rate. Classes required for the MAT degree are not needed for certification. However, most candidates complete degree requirements immediately following certification to increase their base salary. Candidates may delay completion of degree requirements for five years following the quarter of admission, as long as active enrollment status is maintained by completing one class every four quarters. Students are required to earn their Residency Teaching Certificate in order to be eligible to earn the Master of Arts in Teaching degree.

Second Master's Benefit

Students admitted to a graduate teacher education master's program (this does not include the ARC program) already holding a graduate degree may qualify for the master's benefit. This means that students may transfer in up to 12 quarter credits from their previous master's degree (assuming it meets eligibility requirements) to apply toward their master's degree at SPU. Students must submit a consent to transfer coursework form to the associate director of graduate programs to earn the benefit. These credits are included in the transfer policy. The combined total of master's benefit coursework and other approved transfer coursework may not exceed one third of the total number of required credits in your program.

AMAT: Special Education + Elementary Certification (MAT)

59 Credits Minimum

Code	Title	Credits
Master's Degree Component		
EDSP 6652	Seminar in Learning Disabilities and ADHD	3
EDU 6085	Moral and Theological Issues in Education	3
Section Credits Required		6
Summer I		
EDSP 6648	Teaching Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders	3
EDSP 6657	Behavior Management	3

EDU 6100	Introduction to Equitable Teaching	3
EDU 6150	Planning, Instructing and Supporting Students I	3
Section Credits Required		12
Autumn I		
EDMA 6432	Elementary Math Methods	3
EDSP 6646	Severe Disabilities	3
EDSP 6651	Special Education Assessment	3
Section Credits Required		9
Winter I		
EDSC 6250	Elementary Science Methods	3
EDSP 6642	Individualized Education Programs	3
Section Credits Required		6
Spring I		
EDSP 6653	Teaching Reading to Exceptional Students	3
EDU 6133	Culturally Sustaining Teaching for Diverse Learners	3
Section Credits Required		6
Internship (taken over three quarters)		
EDU 6945	Residency Student Teaching Internship	4
Section Credits Required		12
Professional Learning Networks (taken over four quarters)		
EDU 6944	Professional Learning Networks	1
Section Credits Required		4
Capstone (taken over two quarters)		
EDSP 6658	Professional Issues in Special Education	2
Section Credits Required		4
Total Credits		59

Additional Requirements and Information

- Earn Washington State Residency Teacher Certification
- OSPI & PESB requirements. See SOE