

AMAT – Accelerated Master of Arts in Teaching

DIVISION OF EDUCATION | SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY



NATIONALLY RANKED — Seattle Pacific continues to be recognized as a “Best National University” by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Program Description

Seattle Pacific University’s Accelerated Master of Arts in Teaching (AMAT) program integrates a residency teacher certification program with a graduate degree (MAT – Master of Arts in Teaching). The certification component is a full-time, one-year internship-based program that leads to recommending the candidate for Washington state residency teacher certification. The AMAT program is 54–59 credits total, depending upon your endorsement area(s).

The AMAT program’s certification component is designed to be completed in five quarters, beginning in June. The AMAT student must complete a full-time, year-long internship in a school, either as an employed teacher or classified employee¹, or as a volunteer intern in the classroom of an experienced, certified teacher.

¹ Non-certified teachers and classified employees in Washington state may pursue teacher certification through Routes 2, 3, or 4.

Online and Blended Cohorts

The AMAT program offers two formats — blended and fully online. The blended cohort model has some classes in-person (one to two a week), on SPU’s campus. The fully online cohort completes all required coursework online, though there are a few required synchronous classes each quarter. Both programs require full-year student teaching internships in a school near home.

Program Highlights

Students progress through the program as a cohort and begin by taking 11+ credits during the summer. Students continue throughout the year with 10+ credits of coursework per quarter, depending on endorsement(s). These incorporate field-based, online, and traditional courses. The on-campus classes meet one or two nights a week, usually 5–8 p.m. Paraprofessionals, instructional assistants, and non-certified teachers in private schools are encouraged to apply to the AMAT program as they may be able to use their positions as internships. Applicants with a previous master’s degree will be able to transfer some of their credits to reduce coursework and cost.

CURRICULAR FRAMEWORK

Our curriculum is anchored by the equity framework devised by contemporary educator Dr. Gholdy Muhammad. Dr. Muhammad’s model centers literacy as a broad understanding of knowledge and skills in all subjects and is built upon the forgotten but powerful Black literacy societies of the early 19th century. As Dr. Muhammad notes in her book *Cultivating Genius* (2020), society members came together to read, write, think, and learn and became empowered to envision a more just and equitable world. The framework has five layers: identity development, intellectual development, skill development, critical development, and joy. Each of the courses in our curriculum will focus on one or more of these layers and will integrate with other sociocultural, cognitive, theoretical, and practical frameworks that complement and build upon each other.

THE INTERNSHIP

The internship is a vital, integrative experience in which students are paired with mentor teachers and conduct supervised teaching in a school setting over the course of an entire school year (three quarters, final week of August through mid-June, four days a week, except when lead teaching, then it is five days a week). Typically, the internship begins with an extended period of observation, including one-on-one and small-group work. This leads to individual lesson and unit instruction. Throughout the school year, interns take on additional teaching responsibilities so that by either Winter or Spring quarter, they will have assumed responsibility for their mentor teachers’ instructional loads. Interns follow the contracted teacher schedule at the school site.





My instructors and fellow students helped me to build on my strengths and correct my teaching weaknesses. What I learned about teaching and myself made the hard work, time, and sacrifice well worth the effort."

Tom Van Duzer, Special Education Teacher
Bothell, Washington



Program Benefits

SPU has been preparing teachers since 1921, so completing SPU's degree program, which has a reputation as a premier provider of teacher preparation, gives you a competitive edge in the marketplace. Other benefits of the AMAT program include:

- Earn a Washington Residency Teacher Certificate
- Engage in a full-time year-long student teaching internship
- Courses prepare teachers for the needs of Washington state classrooms, which are increasingly multilingual and inclusive of exceptional learners
- Explore tensions and possibilities for social justice teaching
- Progress through the program with fellow students in a cohort
- Learn from experienced mentor teachers and field supervisors
- Complete a graduate degree for higher placement on the salary schedule

Program Candidates

Prior to enrollment in the AMAT program, candidates must:

1) hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution; 2) have completed academic coursework related to his/her endorsement area; 3) have successfully passed two competency tests required by the state of Washington: the WEST-B² and at least one WEST-E or NES exam (which demonstrates competency for endorsement in the candidate's desired teaching area or areas); 4) be available for the program's full-time internship experience, which spans the entire academic school year; and 5) meet the AMAT's admission requirements, listed next.

² Beginning in 2014, applicants may use SAT and ACT scores to meet part/all of the WEST-B requirements. Preferred WEST-B scores: 240 each sub-section

- Preferred SAT scores: Math 515, Reading 500, Writing 490 or Math 27.5, Reading 27, Writing 28 for tests starting 3/5/2016

If an applicant has basic skills scores lower than the preferred scores, they may submit a petition with their application.

- Preferred ACT scores: Math 22, Reading 22, Writing 8 or 23

Admission Information

To apply for admission into the AMAT program, please submit the following items and credentials:

- Graduate application form, available online at spu.edu/applynow
- Official college/university transcript(s)
- One- to two-page personal statement
- Professional résumé
- Two to four letters of recommendation
- Preferred WEST-B scores²
- Passing WEST-E or NES score(s)
- Verify endorsement readiness (For information about endorsements, contact the certification officer at soe-cert@spu.edu)
- Moral and Character Policy Form
- \$50 application fee

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1

Early application deadline: November 15

QUESTIONS?



For complete information about the AMAT program, scan the QR code. For a list of all certification programs, visit spu.edu/soe-masters.

For questions regarding the content or admission requirements for the AMAT program, please contact Graduate Admissions at 206-281-2091, or toll free 800-601-0603, or via email at gradadmissions@spu.edu.

For general information about the teacher certification process in the state of Washington, visit ospi.k12.wa.us/certification

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

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spu.edu/graduate