

MAT – 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 Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) integrates elementary/middle and secondary teacher certification with a master’s degree. The MAT begins once each year in the summer and is completed in two years. Each quarter, students take two to four classes. The MAT program is 58–63 credits total, depending upon your endorsement area(s).

Program Benefits

School districts are known to seek Seattle Pacific graduates for both their competence and their character. Other benefits of the MAT program include:

- Completion of Washington state residency certification and master of arts degree in teaching, offering greater teaching expertise and a higher position on the salary scale
- Worker-friendly schedule (courses are held in the evenings, usually 5–7:30 p.m. once or twice a week)
- Progression through the program with fellow students in a cohort
- School-based “field” experiences in year one and full-time internship in year two
- Personalized advisement and mentoring from full-time faculty
- Courses prepare teachers for the needs of Washington state classrooms, which are increasingly multilingual and inclusive of exceptional learners
- Commitment to the developing socially just and equitable teachers

Online and Blended Cohort

The MAT 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 options require 14-week student teaching internships in a school near home.

Components of the MAT Program

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.

FIELD EXPERIENCES

Spring Field Experience: This component occurs during Spring Quarter in year one and is taken in conjunction with an arranged seminar to discuss observations and learning connected to the school field experience. Students arrange this initial experience on their own.

Autumn Field Experience: Taken at the beginning of year two, the school observation familiarizes certification candidates with the opening of a school year, including faculty meetings, preparation days, and in-service workshops that take place prior to the students’ arrival. Often, the school observation occurs at the same site where the initial field experience takes place.

Student Teaching Internship Experience: The student teaching internship is arranged by SPU’s placement coordinator and runs full time for 14 weeks in Winter and Spring quarters in year two.





The accessibility of the faculty at SPU allowed for a highly personalized educational experience and provided valuable opportunities for my professional growth.”

Greg Bianchi, High School Science Teacher
Seattle, Washington



PRE-PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

In order to be approved for full admission into the MAT program, all applicants must take and receive preferred scores on all three sections (reading, writing, and mathematics) of the Washington Educator Skills Test-Basic (WEST-B). In addition, applicants must pass the WEST-E or NES test in their desired endorsement area before enrolling in MAT classes. For the latest schedule information as well as test registration, visit west.nesinc.com.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING NETWORKS

During the second year of the MAT program, students participate in a professional learning network (PLN), a small group of discipline-alike peers who provide community and peer support throughout the program. Each quarter has a topic of focus, such as supporting multilingual learners and integrating technology. At the end of internship, students make presentations within their PLNs about a profound area of growth and receive feedback from each other, faculty, and community mentors.

ENDORSEMENTS

Residency and Professional certificates specify the subjects and levels the holder is certified to teach. These subject/level designations are called endorsements. Endorsements are earned by:

- Demonstrating content competence through a review of one's academic background, relevant life experiences, and passing the WEST-E or NES exam specific to one's intended endorsement (see west.nesinc.com for more information about the exams)
- Completing an appropriate methods course(s)
- Completing an appropriate field experience

Each certificate must have at least one endorsement. SPU's Division of Education provides endorsement programs in many state-approved endorsements. SPU recommends the candidate to OSPI for endorsement(s) upon completion of the appropriate program. For questions about endorsements, contact SPU's certification officer at soe-cert@spu.edu.

Admission Information

To apply for admission into the MAT program, you must submit the following items:

- 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-B¹ scores
- Passing WEST-E or NES score(s)
- Verify endorsement readiness
- Moral and Character Policy Form
- \$50 application fee

¹ 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

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1

Early application deadline: November 15

QUESTIONS?



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

If you have questions regarding the content or admission requirements for the MAT 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