

Master of Arts in Teaching FAQs

1. MAT Program Information

- a. **Where do I find information about the MAT program?** You can find MAT program information at:
<https://www.mga.edu/education-behavioral-sciences/graduate-programs.php>
- b. **What is a cohort model?** All coursework is prescribed per semester and has to be successfully completed in order to progress to subsequent semesters. (link POS).
- c. **What does it mean by “specialization”?** Specialization is referring to the specific GACE content area for which you plan to pursue certification (i.e. math, history)
- d. **What does pedagogy-only mean?** This means you are only being trained how to teach. There are no content specific courses being taught.
- e. **Can my undergraduate degree be different from my MAT certification area?** Yes, your undergrad degree can be different from your MAT. However, since this MAT program is pedagogy-only, applicants must pass the GACE content assessment with a score of 250 or above to show knowledge/expertise of specified content area.
- f. **How do I begin the application process?** (<https://www.mga.edu/graduate-studies/apply.php>) Go to the Office of Graduate Studies site and select “Apply Now” at the bottom of the page. “Tips for Using Apply Now Tab” dropdown box provides guidance for navigating the GA Futures application portal. Please note that paper applications will not be accepted for consideration at this time.
- g. **Where should I send my transcripts and other documents?** Transcripts and ALL documents (professional recommendations, exemption scores, Pre-Service Certificate, etc.) must be sent to the Office of Graduate Studies at:
graduateadmissions@mga.edu. If you have problems uploading your application or have questions, please contact Mr. Drew McIntosh at drew.mcintosh@mga.edu.
- h. **Is there a graduate application fee?** The graduate application fee is \$40. However, the \$40 fee is waived during the month of November. Graduate applicants must apply on the Office of Graduate Studies webpage.
- i. **Does the program require any prerequisites?** No, the program requires an undergrad degree from an accredited institution approved by the Georgia Professional Standard Commission (GaPSC). Admissions requirements can be found [here](#).
- j. **Is the program fully online?** Yes, the pedagogy courses are fully online. However, you must be available during school hours (7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) to complete field requirements in your specified content/certification area.
- k. **How long is the program?** The program is 1 year (3 sequential semesters).
- l. **When can I begin in the program?** You can begin the MAT program either in the spring cohort (begins in January) or summer cohort (begins in May).
- m. **Will I still need a pre-service certificate if I have a clearance certificate?** Yes, you will need to submit a pre-service application packet to GaPSC. This will allow you to fulfil your field requirements in the classroom. A clearance certificate only shows that you are employed in a school system.
- n. **Can my grad credits from a different MAT program transfer over?** No. Per accreditation requirements, since this is a pedagogy-only graduate program, we do not accept transfer credits.

- o. **Can I submit my application packet without my GACE scores?** Yes, however, your application will not be processed until your GACE scores (GACE PAA, GACE Ethics 360, and GACE Content assessment) are received.
- p. **Do you accept GACE Program Admission Assessment composite scores?** No. All applicants must provide evidence of passing the GACE PAA with a score of 250 or above on each subtest area.
- q. **Will passing GACE content score of 220 allow me into the program and meet the requirement of passing?** No. Since this is a pedagogy-only program, students will need to demonstrate evidence of content expertise by passing their GACE content assessment with a score of 250 or above.
- r. **Do I need daytime availability immediately?** Yes, you will need daytime availability to fulfill your field placement requirements in a school setting.
- s. **How many days per week are we expected to attend placement?** You must attend placement in your certification area as follows – for EDUC 5005, a minimum of 24 – 30 hours, 3-3.75 days per week for the duration of the semester. For EDUC 5006, a minimum of 40 hour, 5 days per week for the duration of the semester. Each certification area requires fieldwork in specific grade bands. For example, P-12 certification (grades P-12) requires grade band experience as follows: P-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Middle grades certification (grades 4 - 8) requires grade band experience as follows: 4-5 and 6-8. Secondary certification (grades 6-12) requires grade band experience as follows: 6-8, and 9-12.
- t. **Can I stay employed while in the program?** If you are working in a school setting, yes; however, if not, you will need to be available during school hours to complete your field placement.
- u. **How does the MAT program work for employed educators (paraprofessional, provisional, or substitute teacher)?** Employed educators may continue teaching at their respective school as long as the subject (s) and grade(s) they are teaching aligns with their certification area. In such cases, the majority of field requirements would be completed in their classroom.
- v. **Can I change my specialization area after being admitted into the MAT program?** No, per GaPSC requirements, your GACE content assessment must be aligned to your certification area. Note – Please ensure that any new teaching position you accept while in the program aligns with your specialization area.
- w. **Will I get a class syllabus and a list of necessary books prior to the first day of classes?** Syllabi is provided in D2L on the first day of classes. Also, there is usually a mandatory online orientation before beginning the MAT program. Here is a link to the bookstore that can tell you what books are needed
https://campusstore.mga.edu/buy_textbooks.asp
- x. **Are classes synchronous or asynchronous?** Classes are usually asynchronous, but the field placement and seminars are synchronous.

2. Tuition

- a) **What is the cost of the program?** The cost of the program is approximately \$10,000. Please check the Bursar's Office graduate [tuition link](#).

- b) **How do I apply for financial aid?** Visit the Financial Aid Office link and connect with a financial aid advisor. If you are a veteran, contact the [Veteran Services](#) for assistance.
- c) **Is there any graduate financial assistance?** There is a federal stipend called Project NURTURE grant as well as other assistance through the [MGA Foundation](#), as available.

3. Project NURTURE

- a) **What is Project NURTURE?** NURTURE stands for The Network for Urban and Rural Teachers United for Residency Engagement. It is a U.S. Department of Education funded program in the form of **stipends** available to MAT students upon their agreement to become graduate degree **residents** and then work as **teachers** in “high-need” school districts and schools.
- b) **How do I apply for the Project NURTURE grant?** Once accepted into the program, you will be sent an application from the Dean’s office.
- c) **Who can apply for Project NURTURE?** Students who are admitted to the MAT program and **are not** a teacher of record, (i.e. teachers with lead responsibility for student learning in a subject/course section with aligned performance measures) may apply.
- d) **Who do I contact to get more information about Project NURTURE?** You may contact Dr. David Biek, Dean of School of Education and Behavioral Sciences, at david.biek@mga.edu.
- e) **I have been hired as a teacher on a provisional basis, how will that affect his clinical hours and qualifications for Project Nurture?** You must attend placement in your certification area as follows – for EDUC 5005, a minimum of 30 hours (i.e., 3-3.75 days) per week for the duration of the semester. For EDUC 5006, a minimum of 40 hour (i.e., 5 days) per week for the duration of the semester. Each certification area requires fieldwork in specific grade bands. For example, P-12 certification (grades P-12) requires grade band experience as follows: P-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Middle grades certification (grades 4 - 8) requires grade band experience as follows: 4-5 and 6-8. Secondary certification (grades 6-12) requires grade band experience as follows: 6-8, and 9-12.