



MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Grades Pre-K through Three (548)

Northwestern State University (NSU) is proud to offer the M.A.T. in Early Childhood Education (Grades Pre-K through 3). This program prepares teachers seeking alternate certification to work with young children, their families, and their communities. The degree program is comprised of Education courses and a Practicum experience that address the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards, and the program involves advanced candidates in strengthening their knowledge, skills, and dispositions relating to working with children from birth to eight years. It is nationally recognized by NAEYC and the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). Through the completion of coursework, students engage in critical and creative thinking and problem solving as they practice differentiating content to meet all students' needs while modeling culturally responsive practices.

The program seeks to prepare teachers of young children for real classrooms in the real world. Students are consistently involved in analyzing best practices for teaching young children, designing and implementing developmentally appropriate activities for their classrooms, and assessing and documenting their students' achievement. Graduate students also learn to plan and evaluate child-centered emergent curricula and design environments that promote growth in all domains. They explore STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) teaching approaches that focus on children's needs and interests, such as the Project Approach and the Reggio Emilia Approach. Finally, they engage in problem-solving and brainstorming solutions for issues that often arise in today's classrooms while enhancing family engagement and family literacy.



The following courses are taken by all candidates seeking the M.A.T in Grades Pre-K-3(all courses are available online):

- ECED 5010 Advanced Child Development (Internet Course offered each Spring)
- ECED 5530 Positive Relationships with Children, Families, and Communities (Internet Course offered each Fall)
- ECED 5560 Early Childhood Learning Space Design (Internet Course offered each Summer)
- ECED 5570* Early Childhood Curriculum and Standards (Internet Course offered each Summer)
- ECED 5580* Early Childhood Practicum: Performance Based Assessment and Documentation (Internet Course offered each Summer)
- EDUC 5010 Educational Research and Evaluation (Internet or Face-to-Face Course offered every semester; must have at least 12 hours)
- EDUC 5450 Early Childhood Internship in Teaching (Offered each Spring and Fall; take after you have completed core coursework)
- EDUC 5451

- RDG 5030 Dyslexia and the Science of Reading: Foundations of Literacy Instruction (Internet Course offered each Spring)
- RDG 5020 Early Childhood Reading Instruction (Pre-K-3) (Internet Course offered each Summer)
- RDG 5510 Diagnosis and Correction of Reading Disabilities (Internet Course offered each Fall)
- SPED 5510 The Study of Individuals with Disabilities (Internet Course offered every semester)

* These two courses are taken concurrently.

Program Admission

For those seeking admission to the M.A.T. in Early Childhood Education program, please submit the following to NSU's Graduate School (1) an application for admission (<https://graduateschool.nsula.edu/admissions/>), (2) documentation of GRE scores (minimum of 282; 280 with stipulations), (3) official transcript(s) of undergraduate work or degree earned, and (4) two letters of recommendation (forms available on the NSU Graduate School website).

Application Process

1. Complete the College of Education and Human Development (COEHD) application for admission to an alternate certification program. Return this application and the attached Louisiana Department of Education Professional Conduct Form to the NSU Office of Teacher Certification, with a resume and official transcripts from all colleges attended as well as PRAXIS scores (if you have taken those tests).
2. Complete a Graduate School application (available at: <https://graduateschool.nsula.edu/admissions/>). All students who are admitted to an Alternate Certification program must also be admitted to the Graduate School. For Graduate School information, please call 1-800-232-9892.
3. Register for and present passing scores on the following examinations:
 - a. PRAXIS I Pre-Professional Skills tests (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics).
(If you have an earned Master's degree, an ACT composite score of at least 22, or an SAT combined verbal and math score of at least 1030, the PRAXIS I exam is not required.)
 - b. PRAXIS II Content Area exam in your certification area. (Information regarding tests required by the state of Louisiana is available on the last pages of this document.)
 - c. GRE (Graduate Record Examination) scores of at least 750 (Verbal/Quantitative). GRE registration information may be found at www.gre.org/splash.html.



NORTHWESTERN STATE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Candidates must be admitted to Northwestern State Graduate School.

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/NSULA-College-of-Education-and-Human-Development

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Visit us at: education.nsula.edu/

QUESTIONS?

University Recruiting
318-357-4503 • recruiting@nsula.edu

Admissions
318-357-4078 • applications@nsula.edu

Financial Aid and Scholarships
318-357-5961 • nsufinaid@nsula.edu

ACCREDITATION: Northwestern State University is accredited by the Commission of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award associate, baccalaureate, master's, specialist's, and doctoral degrees.

Northwestern's College of Education and Human Development has been continuously accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) since its initial accreditation in 1954. All teacher and other school professional preparation programs are recognized as accredited by the NCATE. This designation describes the professional education unit's conceptual framework and provides evidence which demonstrates that the NCATE six standards are met.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION: Northwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, age, pregnancy or parenting status, and veteran or retirement status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies (i.e., Title IX): Employees/Potential Employees – Veronica M. Biscoe, EEO Officer (318-357-6359) and Students – Reatha Cox, Dean of Students (318-357-5285). For Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) concerns, contact the Accessibility and Disability Support Director, Taylor Camidge, at 318-357-5460. Additionally, Northwestern complies with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy & Campus Crime Statistics Act. Information about NSU's campus security and crime statistics can be found at <https://www.nsula.edu/universityaffairs/police/>. Full disclosure statement: <http://universityplanning.nsula.edu/notice-of-non-discrimination>.