

## **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.phpb>.
- 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. (see Program of Study).
- c. **What does it mean by “specialization”?** Specialization refers 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 in 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 220 or above prior to admission to show knowledge/expertise of specified content area.
- f. **How do I begin the application process?**  
(<https://www.mga.edu/graduate-school/programs/teacher-education-ma.php>) Go to the MGA Master of Arts in Teacher Education with Initial Teacher Certification - MAT site and select “Apply Now” at the bottom of the page. Select Graduate School Application and APPLY NOW on 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, CV/ resume, bio, GACE content scores) must be sent to the Office of Graduate Admissions at: [graduateadmissions@mga.edu](mailto:graduateadmissions@mga.edu). If you have problems uploading your application or have questions, please contact Ms. Jaqueline Duca at [jacqueline.duca@mga.edu](mailto:jacqueline.duca@mga.edu).
- h. **Is there a graduate application fee?** The graduate application fee is \$40. 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, five of the seven courses are fully online. Two of the seven courses require students to complete field placement in a P-12 classroom aligned with their initial certification. 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, we do not accept transfer credits.
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- p. **Can I submit my application packet without my GACE scores?** Yes, however, your application will not be processed until your GACE Content Assessment scores and GA Ethics Certificate of Achievement are received (GACE 360 prior to July 1, 2025; or GACE 351 starting July 1, 2025).
- q. **Do I need daytime availability immediately?** Yes, you will need daytime availability to fulfill your field placement requirements in a school setting.
- r. **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 hours, 3 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](#). Each certification area required field work in general education classroom in specific grade bands. For example, P-12 certification (grades 12) requires grade band experience as follows: P-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 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.
- s. **Can I stay employed while in the program?** If you are teaching in a school setting, yes; however, if not, you will need to be available during school hours to complete your field placement.

- t. **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.
- u. **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.
- v. **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](https://campusstore.mga.edu/buy_textbooks.asp)
- w. **Are classes synchronous or asynchronous?** Classes are usually asynchronous, but the online seminars for field courses 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?** Please refer to [MGA's Office of Financial Aid](#) for any available loans or grants.