



**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY**

JAMES I. PERKINS COLLEGE
OF EDUCATION, HUMANITIES,
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MASTERS OF ARTS IN TEACHING SECONDARY EDUCATION (SEED)

2026-27 Graduate Program Handbook

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1. Description: Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) with Teacher Certification

The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) is a graduate program that prepares teachers for teaching roles in the secondary school setting. Through the roles of teacher as researcher, scholar-practitioner, and educational innovator, the program builds a learning community of faculty and students grounded in theory and practice. All coursework is fully online, and some courses hold regular virtual class meetings.

This 30-credit-hour program is designed for students who hold an undergraduate degree but are not yet certified to teach. Coursework covers educational research, curriculum, and instructional design, and includes a certification sequence that builds the skills and knowledge required for instruction, curriculum design, and classroom management, as well as an understanding of the legal and cultural context of Texas public schools — fulfilling the requirements for Texas teacher certification set out in the Texas Education Code.

Coursework is fully online; however, students must also complete field experience hours in public school classrooms as required by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for certification. This includes 50 hours of observation in a public school classroom with 25 of those hours eligible to be virtual observation hours.

In addition to completing the required coursework, you must also either:

1. Secure a year long full-time, paid teaching position — called an internship during which you will be supervised by an SFA field supervisor. (Accompanying coursework SEED 5341, SEED 5345, SEED 5342, SEED 5395)
2. Apply for a year long residency position at one of SFA partner school districts and receive one on one mentoring from an experienced mentor teacher and SFA faculty. (Accompanying coursework SEED 5341, SEED 5345, SEED 5342, SEED 5395)
3. Complete the traditional clinical teaching semester, often called “student teaching,” during which you will work alongside a certified, practicing teacher and be supervised by an SFA field supervisor. Student teaching is traditionally unpaid, though this may vary by district. (Accompanying coursework SEED 5644, SEED 5345, SEED 5395).

2. MAT Program Admission Requirements

Before you can begin taking certification coursework, you must complete the following steps, to be accepted into the alternative certification program at SFA:

1. Have a bachelor's degree. Your GPA must be 2.75 or higher, overall or on your last 60 hours.
2. Apply to the Graduate School for the Master of Arts in Teaching.
Apply online at https://lumberjacks.sfasu.edu/portal/grad_app
3. Pay the graduate application fee of \$50.00
4. Choose “Teaching, MAT” from the degree dropdown list.
5. Complete the TEA-required content knowledge requirement (choose one option):

Option 1 — Content Hours: Show on an academic transcript that you have previously earned 12 hours (15 hours for Mathematics, Life Science, or Physical Science certification) in the SFA-approved content area and grade level you want to teach.

Option 2 — PACT Exam: Register for, take, and pass the appropriate Pre-Admission Content Test (PACT) in the SFA-approved content area and grade level you want to teach.

PACT registration and preparation information:

https://www.tx.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/GENRB_FacultyPACT.html

According to the testing website, the PACT exam typically costs \$106; additional fees may apply.

Available Content Areas for Certification at SFASU

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, 6–12	History 7–12
Art EC–12	Languages Other Than English EC–12 (Spanish)
Business and Finance 6–12	Life Science 7–12
Chemistry 7–12	Mathematics 7–12
Dance 6–12	Music K–12
English Language Arts and Reading 7–12	Physical Education EC–12
Family and Consumer Sciences 6–12	Theater EC–12
MLGE 4-8 ELAR	MLGE 4-8 Social Studies
MLGE 4-8 Math	MLGE 4-8 Science
Elementary (EC-6)	

6. Participate in an admissions screening.

After submitting your graduate school application, you will receive an email from the Office of Assessment and Accountability that may request transcripts or additional documentation — especially if you have previously been enrolled in another educator preparation program.

Once you have submitted that documentation, you will receive a link to the Educator Preparation Admission Survey and Screening Instrument. The screening instrument is self-assessment and essay questions to determine your compatibility with our program. Full admission requires completing those items; any delay in completing them will delay your admission, since they are required by TEA.

7. MAT admission.

Once you have submitted all state- and Office of Assessment and Accountability–required documents, including the survey and screening instrument, you will be admitted to the Educator Preparation Program. You will be sent an email notifying you of your acceptance and you are required to respond to accept your admittance into the program. The EPP will then notify your graduate advisor that you are eligible to register for coursework. Your advisor will email you with course information.

Upon admission, your tuition bill will include two fees:

- EPP Admission Fee — \$100.00
- Texas Education Agency Technology Fee — \$35.00

For more information about admission, contact the ACP Manager at edprep@sfasu.edu.

Application Deadlines

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, based on the start dates of the semesters at SFASU following receipt of all application materials, content-test results, and clearance sent to edprep@sfasu.edu.

Admission Status

Since our program follows state laws for EPP admission requirements, we only allow clear admission, we do not have a provisional or probationary admission status.

Transfer Credit

No transfer hours are accepted in the MAT teacher certification program.

Completion Timeline

You have six years to complete your graduate program. Courses taken more than six years prior will not count toward your degree plan; please plan accordingly so you can graduate within this window.

Meningitis Vaccination Requirement

Under Texas state law (SB 1107), all Texas public college students are required to receive a meningitis vaccine.

4. Program Learning Outcomes

1. The candidate will facilitate the delivery of evidence-based, content-specific curriculum, instruction, and assessments that are responsive to the needs of diverse students in a global and digital society.
2. The candidate will design and implement accessible and identity safe lessons and learning environments for students from all backgrounds and learning needs while incorporating family and community engagement as strong foundation of academic success.

3. The candidate will demonstrate professional dispositions through analyses of contemporary issues in education and knowledge of federal and state legislation for public schools.

3. Coursework

It is your responsibility to keep track of which courses you have taken and when. The following coursework is required for the MAT degree and teacher certification:

SEED 5312 — Education Policy and Texas Students

SEED 5314 — Curriculum and Instructional Design for All Learners

SEED 5316 — Disciplinary, Digital and Media Literacy in the K-12 Classroom

SEED 5318 — Effective Learning Environments for Students in Special Education and English Language Learner Programs

SEED 5326-- Family, School, and Community Partnerships in Education

SEED 5343 — Pedagogical Content Knowledge and the Professional Educator — content test taken during this course; also includes 50 hours of public-school observation. Required before SEED 5341/5342/5344.

READ 5333- Science of Teaching Reading—This course is required for EC-6, MLGE 4-8 ELAR, MLGE Social Studies teachers to fulfill the state requirement for showing competence in the science of teaching reading. Passing the state STR test is a requirement of the course.

SEED 5341—Year Long Residency/Internship Semester 1 (one year in a public school as a resident or intern, required by state law for certification, paid position)

SEED 5342—Year Long Residency/Internship Semester 2 (one year in a public school as a resident or intern, required by state law for certification, paid position)

SEED 5644 —Clinical Teaching (one semester working with mentor teacher, sometimes paid or unpaid)

SEED 5345 — Field Experience Seminar 1 — concurrent with SEED 5341/5644.

SEED 5395 — Field Experience Seminar 2 — concurrent with SEED 5342.

Teacher certification is not guaranteed by this degree. Completion of state required testing for content areas, science of teaching reading and any other state required tests or portfolios, and all other state requirements and must be completed according to the Texas Education Code governing ACP teacher certification for Educator Preparation Programs.

4. Degree Plan and Course Sequencing

SFASU uses the online program called Degree Works for you to keep track of your progress in the degree and see which courses you have taken and which courses you still need to take. The student can access this program through MySFA.

The MAT courses are offered in the following terms. This can be used to plan your coursework, however, the Texas Education Agency frequently changes state laws and regulations involving coursework for EPP's, so this could change at any time to be compliant with state laws.

Session	Course Sequence
Summer 1	SEED 5312, SEED 5343
Summer 2	SEED 5314, SEED 5316
Fall	SEED 5318, SEED 5395, SEED 5343, SEED 5312, EDUC 5341, SEED 5345
Spring	SEED 5345, SEED 5326, SEED 5314, SEED 5316, EDUC 5342, SEED 5345, READ 5333, EDUC 5644, EDUC 5344

5. Sample Course Sequences for Certification Areas

Degree Plans with Content Areas and Different Certification Pathways

YLR/Internship Summer 1 Start

Cert Areas: All but MLGE ELA, MLGE SS, and EC-6

Session	Courses
Summer 1	SEED 5312, SEED 5343 (Content Test)
Summer 2	SEED 5314, SEED 5316
Fall	SEED 5318, SEED 5395 (PPR test), EDUC 5341
Spring	SEED 5345, SEED 5326, EDUC 5342

YLR/Internship Summer 1 Start

Cert Areas: MLGE ELA, MLGE SS, and EC-6

Session	Courses
Summer 1	SEED 5312, SEED 5343 (Content Test)
Summer 2	SEED 5314, SEED 5316
Fall	SEED 5318, SEED 5395 (PPR test), EDUC 5341
Spring	SEED 5345, READ 5333 (STR test), EDUC 5342

YLR/Internship Fall Start- Short Pathway (18 months)

Cert Areas: All but MLGE ELA, SS, and EC-6

Session	Courses
Fall	SEED 5343 (content test), SEED 5312, SEED 5318

Spring	SEED 5345 (PPR), EDUC 5142, SEED 5326
Summer 1	none
Summer 2	SEED 5314, SEED 5316
Fall	SEED 5395, EDUC 5342

YLR/Internship Fall Start- Long Pathway (2 years)

Cert Areas: All but MLGE ELA, SS, and EC-6

Session	Courses
Fall	SEED 5343 (Content Test), SEED 5312, SEED 5318
Spring	SEED 5314, SEED 5314, SEED 5326
Summer 1 and 2	none
Fall	SEED 5345 (PPR), EDUC 5341
Spring	SEED 5395, EDUC 5342

YLR/Internship Fall Start- Short Pathway (18 months)

Cert Areas: MLGE ELA, SS, and EC-6

Session	Courses
Fall	SEED 5343 (content test), SEED 5312, SEED 5318
Spring	SEED 5345 (PPR), EDUC 5142, READ 5333 (STR)
Summer 1	none
Summer 2	SEED 5314, SEED 5316
Fall	SEED 5395, EDUC 5342

YLR/Internship Fall Start- Long Pathway (2 years)

Cert Areas: MLGE ELA, SS, and EC-6

Session	Courses
Fall	SEED 5343 (Content Test), SEED 5312, SEED 5318
Spring	SEED 5314, SEED 5314, READ 5333 (STR)
Summer 1 and 2	none

Fall	SEED 5345 (PPR), EDUC 5341
Spring	SEED 5395, EDUC 5342

Clinical Teaching Summer 1 Start (16 months to Complete)

Cert Areas: All but MLGE ELA, SS, and EC-6

Session	Courses
Summer 1	SEED 5312, SEED 5343 (Content Test)
Summer 2	SEED 5314, SEED 5316
Fall	SEED 5318, SEED 5345 (PPR test), EDUC 5644
Spring	SEED 5395, SEED 5326

Clinical Teaching Summer 1 Start (16 months to completion)

Cert Areas: MLGE ELA, SS, and EC-6

Session	Courses
Summer 1	SEED 5312, SEED 5343 (Content Test)
Summer 2	SEED 5314, SEED 5316
Fall	SEED 5318, SEED 5345 (PPR test), EDUC 5644
Spring	SEED 5395, READ 5333 (STR)

Clinical Teaching Fall Start (18 Months to Complete)

Cert Areas: All but MLGE ELA, SS, and EC-6

Session	Courses
Fall	SEED 5312, SEED 5343 (Content Test), SEED 5318
Spring	SEED 5314, SEED 5316, SEED 5326
Summer	none

Fall	SEED 5395, SEED 5345 (PPR test), EDUC 5644
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Clinical Teaching Fall Start (18 Months to Complete)

Cert Areas: MLGE ELA, SS, and EC-6

Session	Courses
Fall	SEED 5312, SEED 5343 (Content Test), SEED 5318
Spring	SEED 5314, SEED 5316, READ 5333 (STR)
Summer	none
Fall	SEED 5395, SEED 5345 (PPR test), EDUC 5644

Clinical Teaching Spring Start (18 Months to Complete)

Cert Areas: All but MLGE ELA, SS, and EC-6

Session	Courses
Spring	SEED 5326, SEED 5314, SEED 5316
Summer	SEED 5312, SEED 5343 (Content test)
Summer	none
Fall	SEED 5318, SEED 5395
Spring	SEED 5345 (PPR test), EDUC 5644

Clinical Teaching Spring Start (18 Months to Complete)

Cert Areas: MLGE ELA, SS, and EC-6

Session	Courses
Spring	READ 5333 (STR), SEED 5314, SEED 5316
Summer	SEED 5312, SEED 5343 (Content test)
Summer	none
Fall	SEED 5318, SEED 5395

Spring	SEED 5345 (PPR test), EDUC 5644
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6. Registration & Advising Procedures

Master of Arts in Teaching graduate students do not need to be formally advised individually; the degree plan and coursework are located in this handbook. An email

Once the course schedule for an upcoming semester becomes available, log into MySFA and register yourself for the courses you need. A registration tutorial is available at <https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/registrar/tutorial-add-drop-courses.pdf>.

The course schedule typically becomes available in April for summer and fall semesters, and in November for spring semester. The [SFASU Registrar's Office webpage](#) has official registration dates for each session. Please register as soon as possible so we can plan appropriately.

7. Certification Testing Procedures

Each certification area requires different certification testing requirements set forth by the Texas Education Agency that we must follow. They change these periodically, and we are required to shift our coursework and expectations based on those changes.

For MLGE ELA, MLGE SS, and EC-6 Certifications the following tests are required:

Content area test, Science of Teaching Reading (293), and Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (160)

For all other Secondary and MLGE Certifications the following tests are required:

Content area test and Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (160)

To become a certified teacher in Texas, you must pass a content test demonstrating knowledge of your content area, demonstrating your ability to teach effectively.

SEED 5343 includes coursework specific to your content test, along with practice quizzes through an approved SFASU vendor (240 Tutoring or Certify Teacher), which you must pass. Once you are ready to test and have passed the practice quizzes, email your instructor, who will clear you to schedule your content test. Scheduling is done by the student — not the program or staff — because content tests are tied to your identity, and you will be required to verify your identity at the testing site.

Register for TExES content exams at: http://www.tx.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Tests.html

A student who does not meet the minimum required score will work independently with the SEED 5343 instructor and will receive a WH in the course. A student who does not pass on that attempt must complete one or more of the following:

1. Repeat SEED 5343 with instructor and department chair approval.
2. Demonstrate readiness to test with the program coordinator, using a test preparation program assigned by the coordinator.
3. Other options, as determined by the SEED 5343 instructor and department chair.

The Science of Teaching Reading test preparation is completed in READ 5333. A student who does not meet the minimum required score on the STR test will work independently with the READ 5333 instructor and will receive a WH in the course. A student who does not pass on the second attempt must complete one or more of the following:

1. Repeat READ 5333 with instructor and department chair approval.
2. Demonstrate readiness to test with the program coordinator, using a test preparation program assigned by the coordinator.
3. Other options, as determined by the READ 5333 instructor and department chair.

8. Practicum / Field-Based Requirements

MAT field-based experiences are required by the State of Texas (see [TAC 228.35](#)):

- MAT students must complete 12 hours of coursework before becoming eligible for an internship/residency or clinical teaching placement, per TAC 228.35(b)(2), which requires 150 clock-hours of coursework and/or training prior to clinical teaching or internship. Each coursework hour counts as 15 clock-hours, so university-based programs typically require 12 hours (most courses being 3 hours each). The term “training” in the code applies to ACPs offering alternative forms of coursework.
- MAT students must pass their content test before becoming eligible for an internship/residency or clinical teaching placement.
- SEED 5343 students must complete 50 hours of observation during the course: 25 face-to-face and/or 25 virtual/online/video — this is required by state law.
- SEED 5644 (Clinical Teaching) — Apply to clinical teach in My SFA by September 15 or February 15 of the semester before you plan to clinical teach. The Clinical Teaching office will place you in a school and communicate the placement requirements. This is traditionally an unpaid position, however some districts do offer paid clinical teaching positions.
- SEED 5341 and SEED 5342 (Internship) — You apply for and obtain a teaching position in your content area at a public school; SFA does not place you. This is a paid position in which you are employed by the school as a teacher. You must teach in a classroom at an accredited, public K–12 Texas school to complete this course sequence, and your school must provide the documentation required by the state.
- SEED 5341 and SEED 5342 (Residency) — Apply for a residency position in SFA partner school in MySFA the semester before you plan to begin your Year Long Residency. This is a paid position in which you are employed by the school. You must co-teach in a classroom at an accredited, public K–12 Texas school to complete this course sequence.

If you have questions about your clinical practice placement, contact the EPP staff at edcert@sfasu.edu.

9. Official Program Assessments

The Secondary Education graduate programs use testing and coursework as institutional assessments, and follow all TEA guidelines for data collection for EPP's as outlined in state law.

10. Graduation Checklist

It is the student's responsibility to apply for graduation the semester before the intended graduation date. Instructions are available on the Graduate School webpage:

<https://www.sfasu.edu/graduation/applying>

Graduation does not guarantee certification. All ACP candidates must meet every certification requirement set by the Texas Education Code.

11. Financial Aid and Other Funding Options

If you wish to apply for financial aid, visit studentaid.gov to complete the FAFSA after you are admitted to the program.

MAT students seeking certification in English, Science, or Math or other high needs areas may be eligible for the TEACH Grant, which provides tuition funding for teacher certification in exchange for a service commitment at a public school designated as “high need.”

More information: <https://studentaid.gov/teach-grant-program>

12. Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
How do I set up my student teaching / clinical practice placement?	edcert@sfasu.edu
What test(s) do I need to enter one of the graduate programs?	edcert@sfasu.edu
How do I get a letter confirming my enrollment for employment purposes?	edcert@sfasu.edu
Do I need to be advised?	You will get an email from the program coordinator about coursework and certification requirements through all semesters of the program.
How do I know when courses are offered?	See the course sequencing chart in this handbook.
Are courses online or face-to-face?	All SEED courses are fully online, with regular virtual class meetings.

Question	Answer
How and when do I apply for graduation?	https://www.sfasu.edu/graduation/applying
When do I get my textbooks?	Textbooks and course materials are found in the syllabi of the coursework
Other questions?	Contact the program advisor at SEEDGrad@sfasu.edu or edcert@sfasu.edu