

GRADUATE

SIUE

Teaching-Special Education

School of Education, Health and Human Behavior
Department of Teaching and Learning



siue.edu/mat

Master of Arts in Teaching at SIUE

The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) allows students who have an undergraduate degree in areas other than education the opportunity to earn a master's degree, as well as gain certification to teach special education to students in kindergarten through age 21. **Students can earn state licensure and a master's degree in just two years.** The MAT program provides integrated coursework focused on diverse learners, as well as field experiences that require theoretical and practical knowledge application.

The MAT prepares candidates for Learning Behavior Specialist I licensure, which requires teachers to build a knowledge base to identify and intervene with students who exhibit a wide range of disabilities, including:

- Learning disabilities
- Cognitive impairments
- Autism
- Social/emotional disabilities
- Physical disabilities or other health impairments

Students with undergraduate degrees in teacher education are not eligible for this program.

Degrees Available at SIUE

- Master of Arts in Teaching

Course Format

- Online

MAT candidates complete six semesters, totaling 45 hours of online coursework while engaging in field-based, hands-on learning experiences in public school settings. Students enroll in seven to nine hours each semester and progress through the program as members of a cohort, with each new cohort beginning during the

summer term. Field experiences occur during the work day.

Coursework is designed to allow candidates the opportunity to evaluate and conduct research in the classroom. A series of developmentally sequenced field experiences are required for the full age range, all types and ability levels, as well as collaborative opportunities appropriate to the learning behavior specialist. All experiences must be completed prior to student teaching, are supervised by qualified professionals, and are arranged through the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior Office of Educator Preparation.

In place of a separate field experience, candidates currently working in special education classrooms can explore proven ways to prepare lessons for the diverse needs of their students.

Please note that international students are ineligible to receive a student visa for this program.

Why choose SIUE?

SIUE is a leader in education, dedicated to addressing teacher shortages in Illinois and across the United States. In fact, the state of Illinois ranks the special education program at SIUE as exemplary and our students have a 100% pass rate on the edTPA exam.

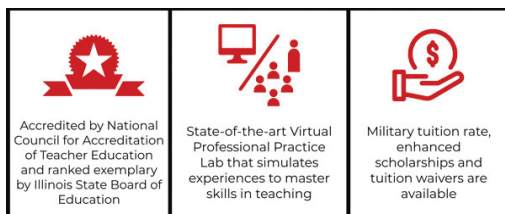
Our students put learning into practice using the Virtual Professional Practice Lab (VPPL), an innovative, mixed-reality technology that simulates experiences and interacts with participants to help them master their teaching skills. SIUE is **one of only 23 universities in the nation with a VPPL** and our students feel better prepared to teach after participating in this hands-on experience.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Why choose SIUE? Cont.

To help address the current special education teacher shortage, the following funding sources are available to students studying in the state of Illinois:

- TEACH grant
- Minority student scholarships
- Special education scholarships
- Reduced tuition rates and tuition waivers for members of the military and Department of Defense



what they hope to achieve by entering a graduate program to become a certified teacher

Please contact the Graduate Admissions Office with questions regarding the application submission process at graduateadmissions@siue.edu.

Application Deadline

The application deadline is May 15 to begin in the following summer semester.

Graduation Requirements

In addition to successful completion of the program of study, students are required to pass all Illinois state licensure requirements for special education.

Required Credit Hours/Tuition and Fees

- 45
- Visit siue.edu/graduate-tuition for detailed tuition information

Program of Study

The Master of Arts in Teaching will lead to an Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL) endorsed for LBS1 (pre-K to age 21) through a focused 45 semester hour course sequence over six semesters.

Required courses (45 hours):

- **SPE 502** Characteristics of Individuals with Disabilities (3)
- **SPE 524** Curriculum Adaptations and Modifications (3)
- **SPE 430A** Classroom Management and Behavior Support in Special Education (3)
- **SPE 523** Instructional Methods for Students with Severe Disabilities (3)
- **SPE 417A** Introductory Reading and Language Arts Methods in Special Education (3)
- **SPE 417B** Advanced Reading and Language Arts Methods in Special Education (3)
- **SPE 516** Instructional and Assistive Technology (3)
- **SPE 470** Transition Planning (2)
- **SPE 421** Mathematics Methods in SPE (3)
- **SPE 511** Individual Educational Assessment (3)
- **SPE 500** Research in Special Education (3)
- **SPE 540** Behavior Issues and the Learning Environment (3)
- **SPE 481** Senior Seminar (2)
- **SPE 595** Action Research (1)
- **SPE 578-001** Field Study (1)
- **SPE 578-002** Field Study (1)
- **SPE 578-003** Field Study (1)
- **SPE 578-004** Field Study (1)
- **SPE 578-005** Field Study (3)

Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 and earn a grade of B or better in SPE 500, as well as earn a grade of B or better on the research paper required in the SPE 500 course.

Please note: The State of Illinois is in the process of making significant changes in teacher education that may result in revised standards, programs, testing requirements, and teaching licenses. It is very important that all prospective and current candidates work closely with their advisors to remain current about course and curriculum changes affecting progress through the program.

What can I do with a master's degree in teaching?

With a growing need for special educators nationwide, as well as anticipated continued growth, MAT graduates have a wide range of employment opportunities. Our graduates are licensed to teach students with a wide range of disabilities in kindergarten through age 21.

Professional Credential Disclosure

This program is intended to prepare students for licensure/certification meeting educational requirements established by regulatory boards in the state of Illinois. Licensure/certification requirements can vary by state. If you intend to practice or teach inside or outside the state of Illinois, please visit siue.edu/consumer-disclosures.

What do our students say about the MAT program?

"Entering the MAT program was one of the best decisions I have made. The cohort exposed me to the Virtual Professional Practice Lab, which gave me the confidence to complete my field placements. In addition, it gave me the opportunity to build lasting relationships with future teachers just like me."

-Lunetha Robinson

"The MAT program has allowed me to pursue my goals with a group of individuals who are driven, kind and passionate about becoming the best educators they can be. The opportunity to earn your master's while working in the field, and being able to take what you learn and apply it every day is just a small part of what makes this program special."

-Terry Chapman

Admission Requirements

- Graduate School application and \$40 fee
- Submission of all postsecondary academic transcripts
- Successful completion of a bachelor's degree prior to enrollment
- Minimum GPA of 2.50 for the last two years of the bachelor's degree program
- Letter of intent that details what skills and experiences the applicant has working with students with disabilities, and

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