Degrees Available at SIUE
• Master of Arts in Teaching

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 in grades K-12. 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 and physical disabilities or other health impairments. Students with undergraduate degrees in teacher education are not eligible for this program.

Career Opportunities
With a growing need for special educators nationwide, as well as a current shortage of special education teachers in Illinois, 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.

Course Formats
• On Campus
• Blended/Online
• Evening
• Summer

MAT candidates complete six semesters, totaling 45 hours of coursework while engaging in field-based, hands-on learning experiences in public school settings. Students progress through the program as members of a cohort, with each new cohort beginning during the summer term. Licensure will cover grades K-12 in special education. 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 Student Services office.
Hands-on Learning
Using their understanding of the diverse characteristics and abilities of each student, as well as how individuals develop and learn within the context of their social, economic, cultural, linguistic and academic experiences, MAT candidates will create instructional opportunities that maximize student learning during student teaching. Through careful planning, content, practice and management, student teachers will create and foster a supportive learning environment.

In the school setting, MAT candidates will demonstrate evidence-based instructional techniques, and will incorporate research-based strategies and interventions, as well as resources and technologies to meet the diverse learning needs of students. Student learning will be monitored, and student teachers will adjust instruction accordingly using their knowledge of the purpose, characteristics and usage of assessment types.

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 what they hope to achieve by entering a graduate program to become a certified teacher
• Passing score on the Special Education General Curriculum Test (163)

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

Application Deadline
The application deadline is April 1 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, including the LBS1 Content Area test (#155) and edTPA.

Review the graduation policy for more information.

Program of Study
The Master of Arts in Teaching will lead to an Illinois Professional Education License (PEL) endorsed for LBS1 (kindergarten through 12th grade) 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 595 course.

Prior to proceeding to student teaching, students must meet the Illinois State Board of Education's basic skills requirement by passing the Test of Academic Proficiency or meeting a minimum ACT or SAT score.

Contact Information
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This information is concurrent with the 2020-2021 Academic Catalog. Courses are subject to change at any time.