Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education

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Admission Criteria

General Admission Criteria

The Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education (CISE) offers Master of Science degrees in Elementary Education, Secondary Education, and Special Education. The Department also offers the the Master of Arts in Teaching–Secondary (MATS) and the Master of Arts in Teaching-Special Education (MATX) degrees. The Educational Specialist degree is offered with a major in Education and concentrations in Elementary Education, Secondary Education, and Special Education.

The Doctor of Philosophy is offered in Curriculum and Instruction with concentrations in Elementary Education, Secondary Education, and Special Education. Graduate programs in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education require applicants to hold or be eligible to obtain a Class A teaching certificate in the appropriate teaching field.

A student applying for admission to a degree program in Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education must submit a complete application packet to the Graduate School by the following deadlines:

Summer	April 1
Fall	July 1
Spring	November 1

Applications not meeting the admission deadline will be held for completion and review for up to two semesters. After that time, the applicant must reapply.

A complete admission packet consists of: application to the graduate degree program; documentation of Class A teacher's certificate or eligibility for licensure (exceptions noted above); three letters of recommendation; statement of purpose (must include number of years and overview of teaching experience, if applicable); and official transcripts from each college or university attended. Official GRE scores are required for all programs except the MATS and MATX. Applicants to an MAT degree program are required to have passing scores on the Praxis Core and appropriate specialty-area test. Doctoral-program applicants must also include in their packet two scholarly writing samples, a statement of support from a current graduate faculty member in the program, and a curriculum vitae or résumé. Applicants must also document three years of teaching experience or other relevant experience. Applicants to doctoral programs must be interviewed before an admission decision is made. Minimum grade point averages required for admission to each degree are listed below.

- Master's degree: minimum GPA 2.75 on last half of baccalaureate degree
- Educational Specialist degree: minimum GPA 3.20 on master's degree
- Doctoral degree: minimum GPA 3.40 on previous graduate degree(s)

All new students admitted into a graduate program in CISE must attend the CISE Graduate Student Orientation.

Contingent Admission

Contingent admission status is reserved for those students who are applying to a degree program during the semester they are graduating with another degree and the overall GPA is pending. Otherwise, the admission packet must be complete and all admission requirements met before admission will be considered.

Provisional Admission

The Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education follows the University's Provisional Admission policy (http://catalog.msstate.edu/graduate/academic-policies/academic-requirements/#provisionaladmissiontext).

Residency Requirement

There is no general residency requirement for the master's degree. Residency for the specialist degree is a minimum of 30 weeks. A degree cannot be completed in two summer sessions or equivalent, neither in one regular semester and one summer session. For doctoral students there is no specific on-campus residence requirement. However, students are required to complete one-half of required coursework and all dissertation credits from Mississippi State University.

Academic Performance for All Programs

The Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education defines satisfactory performance in graduate level coursework as a grade of S on thesis/dissertation hours and a GPA of at least 3.00 on all coursework attempted. CISE follows Graduate School policies relating to academic performance. In the event a student's performance warrants dismissal from a graduate program, the CISE Graduate Coordinator will petition the Dean of the College of Education to dismiss the student from the graduate program. The student will be notified of the action by certified mail. If a student earns a grade below a B in a course on his or her plan of study, the course cannot be dropped from the plan of study.

Accelerated Program

Highly qualified undergraduates on STEM degree pathways are encouraged to consider applying to the STEM MAT-S Accelerated Program. The program is designed to transition individuals into a career as a professional educator. Students can to earn up to 15 hours of graduate level coursework during their final year of undergraduate studies; with graduate level courses applied to both undergraduate credit and graduate credit simultaneously. After the student completes their STEM undergraduate degree they take two summer courses earning temporary licensure, accept a teaching position, complete a paid internship with a university supervisor, graduate with a master's degree in education and earn a 5 year renewable teaching license.

Master of Science in Elementary Education

Core Courses		
EDF 8363	Function and Methods of Research in Education	3
EDE 8313	Theory and Development of Early Childhood Education	3
or EDE 8713	Educating Young Adolescents	
EDE 8623	Content Area Literacy and Disciplinary Literacy Instruction	3
EDE 8633	The Teaching of Writing	3
EDE 8733	Teaching Physical, Life, and Earth Science in the Elementary and Middle School Classroom	3
EDE 8763	Elementary and Middle Level Mathematics Education	3
RDG 8713	Teaching Struggling Readers and Writers	3
EDE 8473	The Elementary Social Studies Curriculum	3
Total Hours		**24**

This program requires a minimum of of 33 semester hours of coursework beyond the bachelor's degree, which includes 9 semester hours of electives and a written comprehensive exam. The focus of the program is on Elementary Education with coursework addressing the core content areas, Literacy, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies in the elementary classroom.

The written comprehensive examinations for the Master of Science degree are scheduled twice a year. The dates are the second Tuesday of October and February. Students can take the comprehensive examination when they are within 6 hours of completing their degree or are in their terminal semester, have an overall graduate GPA of 3.00, and have completed the courses that will be covered on the comprehensive examination.

Master of Science in Secondary Education

Core Courses		
EDF 8363	Function and Methods of Research in Education	3
EDS 8683	Dispositions and Reflective Practice in Teaching	3
EDS 8613	Middle and Secondary School Curriculum	3
EDS 8653	Issues of Accountability in Schools	3
EDS 8663	Improving Instruction in Secondary Schools	3
RDG 8000-level elective		3
Two content courses (mathematics, science, English, foreign language, social studies, reading, etc. as approved by advisor)		6
Three electives chosen from either education or content area approved by advisor		9
Total Hours		**33**

This program requires a minimum of 33 semester hours of coursework beyond the bachelor's degree and a written comprehensive exam. The focus of the program is on secondary education with supporting coursework from related fields and the teaching discipline. The written comprehensive examinations for the Master of Science degree are scheduled twice a year. The dates are the second Tuesday of October and February. Students can take the comprehensive examination when they are within 6 hours of completing their degree or are in their terminal semester, have an overall graduate GPA of 3.00, and have completed the courses that will be covered on the comprehensive examination.

A student's program of study must be filed in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education by the end of the first semester.

Master of Science in Special Education

The Master of Science in Special Education requires a minimum of 30 hours of coursework beyond the bachelor's degree. Students must also pass a written comprehensive examination. The program is specifically intended to prepare classroom and resource teachers for public schools and institutions for students with disabilities. Additional endorsements in working with students who are gifted and talented or those who have severe/multiple disabilities are available. Programs can be combined to include multiple endorsements.

The written comprehensive examinations for the Master of Science degree are scheduled three times a year. The dates are the second Tuesday in June, October, and February. Students can take the comprehensive examination when they are within 6 hours of completing their degree or are in their terminal semester, have an overall graduate GPA of 3.00, and have completed the courses that will be covered on the comprehensive examination.

Master of Arts in Teaching - Secondary Education

EDS 8243	Advanced Planning and Managing of Learning	3
EDS 6403	Evaluation in Learning in Secondary Schools	3
EDS 8623	Principles of Effective Instruction in Secondary Schools	3
EDX 8173	Special Education in the Regular Classroom	3
EDS 8103	Advanced Methodologies in Middle and Secondary Education	3
RDG 8653	Teaching Reading in the Secondary Schools	3
EDS 8886	Dimensions of Learning I	6
EDS 66x3	Methods in Secondary Teaching	3
EDS 8613	Middle and Secondary School Curriculum	3
Total Hours		**30**

The MATS program is an alternate route secondary licensure program of study that consists of 30 semester hours of graduate-level coursework. It is designed for a candidate with a bachelor's degree in a content discipline who wishes to prepare for a career as a teacher. All admitted MATS students applying for a teaching license must have taken the ACT with a minimum composite score of 21 or have passing Praxis Core. Passing scores, as set by MOE,on the Praxis 11-Specialty Area Test are also required for licensure. MATS students must also pass a certified background check prior to admission.

Concentrations Include:

English Education (ENED)
Mathematics Education (MAED)
Social Studies Education (SSED)
Biology Education (BIED)
Chemistry Education (CHED)
Physics Education (PHED)
Physical Education & Coaching (PECO)
Computer Science Education (EDCS)
Foreign Language Education-French (FLFE)
Foreign Language Education-German (FLGE)
Foreign Language Education-Spanish (FLSE)

Students in the MATS will complete the comprehensive examination in the final semester or final 6 hours of enrollment by registering for and passing the Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) examination through ETS.

Master of Arts in Teaching - Special Education

EDX 6173	Introduction to Contingency Management	3
EDX 8173	Special Education in the Regular Classroom	3
EDX 6193	Advanced Planning in Special Education	3
EDX 6813	Introduction to Assessment Issues in Special Education	3
EDX 8013	Fundamentals of Teaching Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disorders	3

EDX 8023	Fundamentals of Teaching Individuals with Learning Disabilities	3
EDX 8053	Fundamentals of Teaching Individuals with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders	3
EDX 8233	Special Education Internship I	3
EDX 8243	Special Education Internship II	3
EDE 8163	Teaching Middle Level Mathematics Content	3
or EDS 6633	Mathematics Education Pedagogy	
RDG 8113		3
or RDG 8123		
or RDG 8133	Middle Level Content Area Literacy Instruction	
or RDG 8653	Teaching Reading in the Secondary Schools	
Total Hours		**33**

The Master of Arts in Special Education (M.A.T.X.) is an alternate route licensure program of study that consists of 33 semester hours of graduate-level coursework and is designed for a person seeking a career as a special education teacher. In addition to the criteria for admission to a Master of Science degree program in CISE (with the exception of a teaching license), M.A.T.X. candidates must pass the Praxis CORE and Praxis II Specialty Area Test required for special education licensure by the Mississippi Department of Education and pass a certified background check.

Educational Specialist with Major in Education and Concentration in Elementary or Secondary Education

EPY 6214	Educational and Psychological Statistics	4
EDE /EDS 7000	Directed Individual Study in Elementary Education	3
Other graduate-level coursework		23
Total Hours		**30**

The written comprehensive examinations for the Educational Specialist degree are scheduled twice a year. The dates are the second Tuesday of June and February. Students can take the comprehensive examination when they are within 6 hours of completing their degree or are in their terminal semester, have an overall graduate GPA of 3.00, and have completed the courses that will be covered on the comprehensive examination.

Educational Specialist with Major in Education and Concentration in Special Education

The Educational Specialist degree with a major in Education and concentration in Special Education requires a minimum of 31 hours of coursework above the Master's degree in Special Education including EPY 6214 and EDX 7000. Available electives must be approved by the student's advisor. The program is designed to provide students advanced coursework in the field, to allow them to add additional endorsements, or to be better prepared to take on a wide range of positions within their school districts. A student must hold an AA licensure in Special Education.

EPY 6214	Educational and Psychological Statistics	4
EDX 7000	Directed Individual Study in Special Education (Specialist Field Study)	3
EDX 8133	Readings and Research in Exceptional Education	3
EDX 8123	Organization and Supervision of Special Education	3
Electives--50% of coursework must be at 8000-level or above		18
Total Hours		**31**

The written comprehensive examinations for the Educational Specialist degrees are scheduled three times a year. The dates are the second Tuesday in June, October, and February. Students can take the comprehensive examination when they are within 6 hours of completing their degree or are in their terminal semester, have an overall graduate GPA of 3.00, and have completed the courses that will be covered on the comprehensive examination.

Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction

The program for the Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction is designed for experienced professionals in higher education environments interested in leading and managing various aspects of universities, state higher education agencies, and related fields.

Core Courses		
EPY 6214	Educational and Psychological Statistics	4
EPY 8214	Intermediate Educational and Psychological Statistics	4
EPY 9213	Multivariate Analysis in Educational Research	3
EDF 8363	Function and Methods of Research in Education (may be taken in master's work)	3
EDF 9373	Educational Research Design	3
EDF 9453	Introduction to Qualitative Research in Education	3

Select one or two of the following:		3-6
EDF 9463	Qualitative Data Collection in Education	
EDF 9473	Qualitative Data Analysis and Presentation in Education	
EDF 9443	Single-Subject Research Designs for Education	
Foundations Courses		
Select one of the following:		3
EDF 8323	Comparative Education	
EDF 8383	Issues in Education	
EDF 8393	History of Education in the United States	
EDF 9313	Philosophy of Education	
EPY 8223	Psychological Foundations of Education	
Ethics Course		
PHI 8101	Case Studies in Scientific Research Ethics	1
Major Area Courses		
Directed Individual Study: EDE 7000 or EDS 7000 or EDX 7000		6
EDE /EDS /EDX 9553	Teaching and Teacher Education	3
EDE /EDS /EDX 9413	Practicum in College Teaching	3
EDE 8893/EDS 8643	Directed Readings in Teacher Education	3
or EDX 8133	Readings and Research in Exceptional Education	
EDE /EDS /EDX 9221	Professional Practice in Teacher Education	1
Additional major area coursework (may include master's and educational specialist coursework) [1]		24
Dissertation credit hours		20
Total Hours		**90**

The program requires a minimum of 90 semester hours of coursework beyond the bachelor's degree.

[1] Additional 24 hours of major-area and supporting coursework including 12 hours in the concentration and up to 12 hours in a minor area. Concentrations include Elementary Education, Secondary Education, and Special Education. At least two-thirds of the total hours of coursework on the plan of study, exclusive of dissertation hours, must be courses at the 8000 level or above. (Admission to concentrations in General Education; Early Childhood Education; and Reading Education has been suspended.)

Other Requirements

Demonstration of competence in the application of research and statistics through the research skill requirement; written and oral comprehensive examinations; and a dissertation.

See the CISE Graduate Handbook for information about the doctoral comprehensive examination.

Completion Requirements for All Programs

All graduate students must attend the CISE graduate orientation or complete the online orientation quiz. All graduate students submitting a thesis or dissertation must attend the thesis/dissertation workshops conducted by the Library within the year in which they are completing the dissertation and before receiving the graduate coordinator's signature. All students seeking the Doctor of Philosophy degree must satisfy the research skills requirement before taking the written comprehensive examination.

For further information concerning the degree programs offered by CISE, students should refer to the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education Graduate Handbook (www.cise.msstate.edu (http://www.cise.msstate.edu/)).

Master of Arts in Teaching - Middle Level (Admission to this program is currently suspended.)

Core Courses		
EDE 8113	Planning and Management for Elementary and Special Education	3
EDE 8123	Foundations for Teaching Middle Level Mathematics	3
RDG 8113		
EPY 8473	Elementary Assessment and Evaluation	3
RDG 8123		
EDE 8133	Teaching Internship in Elementary and Special Education I	3

EDF 8553	Research in the Classroom	3
EDE 8143	Teaching Internship in Elementary and Special Education II	3
RDG 8133	Middle Level Content Area Literacy Instruction	3
EDE 8153	Professional Roles of the Middle Level Educator	3
Select one of the following:		3
EDE 8163	Teaching Middle Level Mathematics Content	
EDE 8173	Teaching Middle Level Social Studies	
EDE 8183	Teaching Middle Level Sciences	
Select one graduate-level diversity elective		3
Total Hours		**30**

The M.A.T.M. program is an alternate route licensure program of study that consists of 36 semester hours of graduate-level coursework. It is designed for those who wish to prepare for a career as a middle-level teacher. In addition to the criteria for admission to a Master of Science degree program (with the exception of a teaching license), M.A.T.M. candidates must pass the Praxis Core and Praxis II Specialty Area Test required for middle-level licensure by the Mississippi Department of Education, possess either 21 hours in a single content area or pass the secondary education Praxis II Specialty Area test for a specific content area, and pass a certified background check.

Students in the M.A.T.M. will complete the comprehensive examination in the final semester of enrollment by registering for and passing the appropriate Praxis II Principles of Learning and Teaching examination through ETS.