

**Kansas State University's** *Master of Arts in Teaching*

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# ELEMENTARY

**TRACKS 2024-2025**



# DEAR FUTURE TEACHER

**K-State has designed TWO MAT Elementary tracks built specifically for career-changers like you:**

- **License-seeking track:** For students who pursue the MAT while continuing their current employment.
- **Practitioner track:** For students who pursue the MAT while teaching full-time. Students apply for Limited Elementary Apprentice Program (LEAP) teaching license after admission.

I have included additional information about both of our award-winning, flexible MAT Elementary programs, including FAQs and possible course schedules.

**To get started on your application, here are some useful links:**

- Begin your [application](#).
- Submit [FAFSA](#).
- Apply for the [Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship](#).
- Find out more about the [Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program](#).

**Why do people choose K-State?**

**Cost/Value.** K-State's Practitioner Track allows MAT students to serve as the teacher of record while working toward their license and Master's degree. Tuition is reasonable at \$536.13 per credit hour (both in-state and out-of-state). 31 credit hours = \$16,620.03.

**Convenience.** All courses are asynchronous; student teach in local schools.

**Personalized.** Every MAT student is assigned a GradCat — a master teacher who serves as a mentor, coach, and evaluator from the beginning of the program to the end.

**Flexible.** K-State's License-Seeking Track allows MAT students to complete their program in as little as 12 months or over a longer time horizon.

**Quality.** K-State's MAT is rated #12 by US News and World Report; courses are taught by leading scholars in their respective fields.

**Diversity.** Learn with over 200 classmates from more than 35 states who hold undergraduate degrees in diverse fields.

**Jobs.** More than 97% of our MAT graduates are employed within one year.

On behalf of the MAT students, faculty, and staff, I invite you to join our practical, convenient, and affordable pathway to teaching. Do not hesitate to call or email should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Vontz, Ph.D.

Professor and Director, Master of Arts in Teaching

# MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (LICENSE-SEEKING)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS MAT?

The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) opens a pathway to elementary teaching for career changers. Students earn a master's degree and recommendation for a Kansas K-6 Initial Teaching License. The master's degree combines rigorous online coursework with field experiences in accredited elementary schools that are convenient to students in the program. Upon completion, students will be able to apply for K-6 teacher certification.

### HOW IS THE PROGRAM ORGANIZED?

The elementary MAT consists of two flexible tracks.

- **License-seeking track:** For students who pursue the MAT while continuing their current employment.
- **Practitioner track:** For students who pursue the MAT while teaching full-time. Kansas teachers are required to hold a LEAP License.

### WHEN CAN I APPLY?

Applications are accepted year-round. Applicants should plan to apply within two to three months from the start of the semester. The fall semester begins in late August, the spring semester begins in late January, and the summer semester begins in mid-May.

### WHAT ARE THE DEGREE AND GPA REQUIREMENTS?

Bachelor's degree with a 3.0 GPA overall or in the final two years. If your GPA is below 3.0, contact Dr. Vontz (tvontz@ksu.edu) to explore options.

### WHAT TESTS ARE REQUIRED?

No tests are required to be admitted to the elementary MAT. To become certified in Kansas, however, students will need to complete a background check and pass the Elementary Content Knowledge for Teaching ([CKT 7811](#)).

### HOW DO STUDENTS COMPLETE FIELD EXPERIENCES?

Students complete field experiences (practicum and student teaching) in accredited schools near where they currently live. MAT students are required to obtain a device that enables recording, such as a tablet or video-enabled phone. The combination of these technologies enables real-time and video classroom observations and evaluation.

### WILL THE DEGREE TRANSFER TO OTHER STATES?

Yes, the degree and teaching certificate do transfer to other states. Kansas has reciprocal licensing agreements with all other states; however, students may be required to complete an additional test or other state-specific requirements (e.g., state history and/or constitution).

# MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (LICENSE-SEEKING) FAQs CONTINUED

## IS FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE?

- [Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship](#): Applications are due May 1.
- [K-State Global Campus Scholarships](#): The application deadline is April 1 for the summer, June 1 for the fall, and Nov. 1 for the spring.
- [Federal Loan Forgiveness for Teachers](#): Maximum benefits \$17,500.
- [FAFSA](#): Completing the FAFSA is required to be eligible for several of the financial assistance programs listed above.

## WHAT IS THE PROGRAM COST?

- Tuition is \$536.13 per credit hour.
- 31 credit hours x \$536.13 = \$16,620.03
- Tuition is paid semester by semester and is based on credit hours of enrollment.

## CAN I CONTINUE TO WORK IN MY CURRENT POSITION?

Yes. However, during the semester you enroll in EDCI 800, you are required to arrange (with your cooperating teacher/school) 64 hours of teaching experience; during EDCI 801, you will complete 12 weeks of full-time student teaching and will not be able to continue full-time employment.

## I AM A PARA-EDUCATOR. WILL MY JOB “COUNT” FOR MY FIELD EXPERIENCES?

No. Although we might be able to place you in the school in which you work, your work as a para does NOT count toward field experiences. Your field experiences require you to demonstrate additional skills beyond your excellent experiences as a para.

## HOW IS THE CURRICULUM ORGANIZED?

### Pre-requisite Core Courses (6 credits)

- **EDCI 702** - Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (3 credits)
- **EDCI 716** - Teaching Diverse Learners (3 credits)

### Core Courses (20 credits)

- **EDCI 710** - Social Foundations of Education (3 credits), summer only
- **EDCI 760** - Action Research in Education (3 credits)
- **EDCI 791** - Teaching Science and Math (4 credits)
- **EDCI 792** - Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy (4 credits)
- **EDCI 793** - Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts (4 credits)
- **EDCI 800** - Teaching Practicum (2 credits)

### Culminating Courses (5 credits)

- **EDCI 801** - Internship in K-12 Schools (4 credits)
- **EDCI 890** - Master's Project (1 credit)

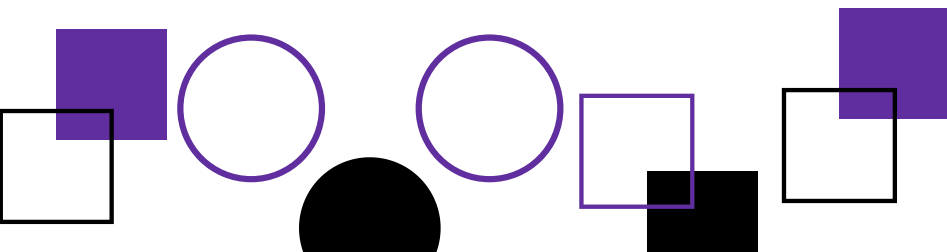
**Prerequisites.** Successful completion (grade of C or higher) in EDCI 702 and EDCI 716 is required prior to enrolling in any other courses.

**Culminating courses.** EDCI 801 and EDCI 890 are required during the last semester and are to be taken concurrently.

# EXAMPLE ELEMENTARY MAT TRACK **EDCATS** SUMMER START

*(License-Seeking Track - 12 Month)*

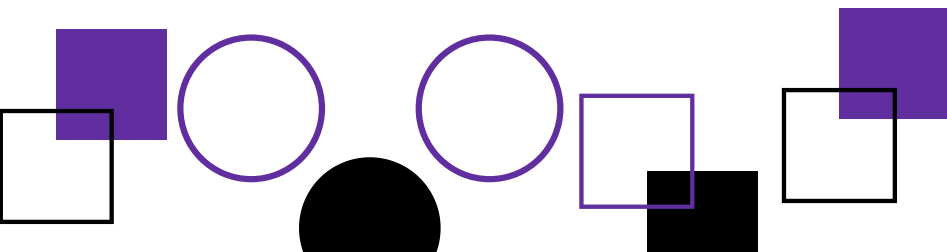
SEMESTER	COURSES	HOURS
Summer	<b>EDCI 702</b> - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	3
Summer	<b>EDCI 710</b> - Social Foundations of K-12 Education	3
Summer	<b>EDCI 716</b> - Teaching Diverse Learners	3
Fall	<b>EDCI 791</b> - Teaching Science and Mathematics in the Elementary School	4
Fall	<b>EDCI 792</b> - Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy in the Elementary School	4
Fall	<b>EDCI 800</b> - Teaching Practicum	2
Dec/Jan (Spring Enrollment)	<b>EDCI 793</b> - Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts in the Elementary Schools	4
Spring	<b>EDCI 760</b> - Action Research in Education	3
Spring	<b>EDCI 801</b> - Internship in K-12 Schools	4
Spring	<b>EDCI 890</b> - Master's Project	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>31</b>



# FALL START

*(License-Seeking Track)*

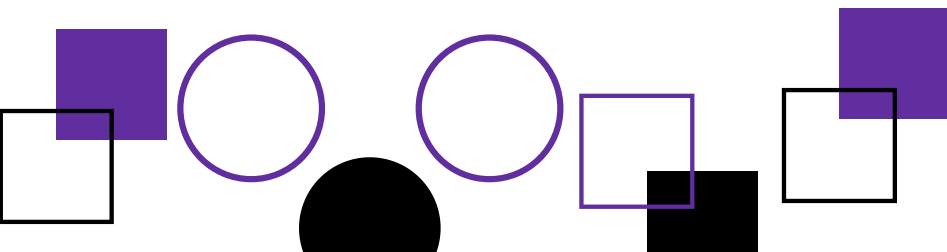
SEMESTER	COURSES	HOURS
Fall	<b>EDCI 702</b> - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	3
Fall	<b>EDCI 716</b> - Teaching Diverse Learners	3
Dec/Jan (Spring Enrollment)	<b>EDCI 793</b> - Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts in the Elementary Schools	4
Spring	<b>EDCI 800</b> - Teaching Practicum	2
Summer	<b>EDCI 710</b> - Social Foundations of K-12 Education	3
Fall	<b>EDCI 791</b> - Teaching Science and Mathematics in the Elementary School	4
Fall	<b>EDCI 792</b> - Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy in the Elementary School	4
Spring	<b>EDCI 760</b> - Action Research in Education	3
Spring	<b>EDCI 801</b> - Internship in K-12 Schools	4
Spring	<b>EDCI 890</b> - Master's Project	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>31</b>



EXAMPLE ELEMENTARY MAT TRACK  
**SPRING START**

*(License-Seeking Track)*

SEMESTER	COURSES	HOURS
Spring	<b>EDCI 702</b> - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	3
Spring	<b>EDCI 716</b> - Teaching Diverse Learners	3
Summer	<b>EDCI 710</b> - Social Foundations of K-12 Education	3
Summer	<b>EDCI 793</b> - Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts in the Elementary Schools	4
Fall	<b>EDCI 800</b> - Teaching Practicum	2
Fall	<b>EDCI 791</b> - Teaching Science and Mathematics in the Elementary School	4
Fall	<b>EDCI 792</b> - Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy in the Elementary School	4
Spring	<b>EDCI 760</b> - Action Research in Education	3
Spring	<b>EDCI 801</b> - Internship in K-12 Schools	4
Spring	<b>EDCI 890</b> - Master's Project	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>31</b>



# MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (PRACTITIONER TRACK)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **DO I NEED TO MARK PRACTITIONER ON MY APPLICATION?**

No, students can opt-in to the practitioner track anytime after securing a full-time teaching position.

### **WHO WILL SERVE AS MY COOPERATING TEACHER?**

Typically, your principal, assistant principal or department chair serves as the CT. MAT practitioners are the “teacher of record” and serve on a Limited Elementary Apprentice License (LEAP).

### **IS THE CURRICULUM THE SAME FOR MAT PRACTITIONERS?**

Practitioners take the same curriculum but are also required to take EDCI 886: Orientation to Teaching (to help prepare you for full-time teaching).

### **WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE TO SEARCH FOR TEACHING JOBS?**

Resources vary by state. In Kansas, the best place to go is [Educate Kansas](#).

### **IS THERE A CAP ON THE NUMBER OF PRACTITIONERS?**

No.

### **ARE PRACTITIONERS ASSIGNED TO A GRADCAT?**

Yes, all practitioners are assigned a GradCat who serves as a mentor, evaluator and coach throughout the program.

### **AS A PRACTITIONER, AM I STILL ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL AID?**

Yes.

### **DO I NEED A PASSING PRAXIS TEST SCORE TO PARTICIPATE?**

No.

### **IS THERE A TIME LIMIT TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM?**

Yes, KSDE requires students to complete their program within two years of receiving their LEAP license.



# MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (PRACTITIONER TRACK)

## FAQs CONTINUED

### HOW DO I OPT-IN TO THE MAT PRACTITIONER?

- **Step 1: Admission**
  - Admission to the MAT.
- **Step 2: Complete Practitioner Prerequisite Courses**
  - EDCI 702: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, as well as EDCI 716: Teaching Diverse Learners.
- **Step 3: Apply for teaching positions in Kansas.**
  - You can reach out to local schools or visit [Educate Kansas](#).
- **Step 4: Secure a full-time teaching contract in Kansas.**
  - The teaching position must be full-time and in an elementary position. Email TJ Duntz ([tduntz@k-state.edu](mailto:tduntz@k-state.edu)) if you have questions about whether a position will work with the program.
- **Step 5: Declare the Practitioner Track with K-State.**
  - After securing a teaching position, email TJ Duntz ([tduntz@k-state.edu](mailto:tduntz@k-state.edu)) that you are selecting the practitioner track. At this time, let him know the school, grade level, and subjects you are hired to teach.
- **Step 6: Advising Meeting.**
  - Arrange a meeting time with TJ Duntz (via Zoom or Phone) to adjust your enrollment sections, add EDCI 886 Orientation to Teaching (required of all practitioner students), create a MAT plan forward, and talk through licensing steps.
- **Step 7: Apply for a Limited Elementary Apprentice License (LEAP) for KSDE.**
  - Apply for a LEAP License on KSDE Form 24b (includes fingerprints and background check).
- **Step 8: Successfully complete MAT within 24 months.**
  - The LEAP License will expire in 24 months or less, depending on your plan.
- **Step 9: Recommendation for Kansas Initial Teaching License.**
  - You will be recommended for an initial teaching license upon successfully completing the MAT and the Praxis pedagogy and content tests.

**Questions?** Send an email or arrange a call with Mr. TJ Duntz ([tduntz@ksu.edu](mailto:tduntz@ksu.edu)).

# EXAMPLE ELEMENTARY MAT TRACK **EDCATS** SUMMER START

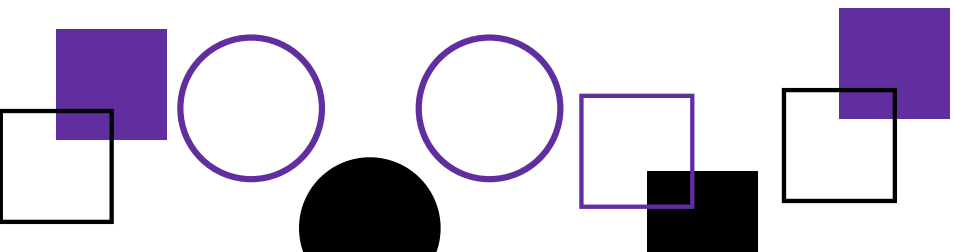
## *(Practitioner Track)*

SEMESTER	COURSES	HOURS
Summer	<b>EDCI 702</b> - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	3
Summer	<b>EDCI 710</b> - Social Foundations of K-12 Education	3
Summer	<b>EDCI 716</b> - Teaching Diverse Learners	3
Summer	<b>EDCI 886</b> - Orientation to Teaching	2
	FALL SEMESTER - ELIGIBLE FOR KS LEAP LICENSE	
Fall	<b>EDCI 791</b> - Teaching Science and Mathematics in the Elementary School	4
Fall	<b>EDCI 800</b> - Teaching Practicum	2
Dec/Jan (Spring Enrollment)	<b>EDCI 793</b> - Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts in the Elementary Schools	4
Spring	<b>EDCI 792</b> - Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy in the Elementary School	4
Fall	<b>EDCI 760</b> - Action Research in Education	3
Spring	<b>EDCI 801</b> - Internship in K-12 Schools	4
Spring	<b>EDCI 890</b> - Master's Project	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>33</b>

# FALL START

*(Practitioner Track)*

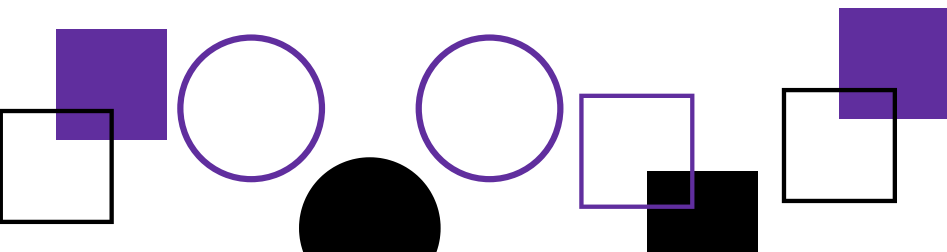
SEMESTER	COURSES	HOURS
Fall	<b>EDCI 702</b> - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	3
Fall	<b>EDCI 716</b> - Teaching Diverse Learners	3
Fall	<b>EDCI 886</b> - Orientation to Teaching	2
SPRING SEMESTER - ELIGIBLE FOR KS LEAP LICENSE		
Spring	<b>EDCI 792</b> - Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy in the Elementary School	4
Spring	<b>EDCI 800</b> - Teaching Practicum	2
Summer	<b>EDCI 710</b> - Social Foundations of K-12 Education	3
Summer	<b>EDCI 793</b> - Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts in the Elementary Schools	4
Fall	<b>EDCI 791</b> - Teaching Science and Mathematics in the Elementary School	4
Spring	<b>EDCI 760</b> - Action Research in Education	3
Spring	<b>EDCI 801</b> - Internship in K-12 Schools	4
Spring	<b>EDCI 890</b> - Master's Project	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>33</b>



# SPRING START

*(Practitioner Track)*

SEMESTER	COURSES	HOURS
Spring	<b>EDCI 702</b> - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	3
Spring	<b>EDCI 716</b> - Teaching Diverse Learners	3
Spring	<b>EDCI 886</b> - Orientation to Teaching	2
SUMMER SEMESTER - ELIGIBLE FOR KS LEAP LICENSE		
Summer	<b>EDCI 710</b> - Social Foundations of K-12 Education	3
Summer	<b>EDCI 793</b> - Teaching Health, Movement, and Fine Arts in the Elementary Schools	4
Fall	<b>EDCI 791</b> - Teaching Science and Mathematics in the Elementary School	4
Fall	<b>EDCI 800</b> - Teaching Practicum	2
Spring	<b>EDCI 792</b> - Teaching Social Studies, Reading, and Literacy in the Elementary School	4
Fall	<b>EDCI 760</b> - Action Research in Education	3
Fall	<b>EDCI 801</b> - Internship in K-12 Schools	4
Fall	<b>EDCI 890</b> - Master's Project	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>33</b>





***EDCATS***

**KANSAS STATE**  

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**U N I V E R S I T Y**

College of Education

