



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

352 Lafayette Street, Salem, MA 01970-5353

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MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (MAT) – BIOLOGY

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

The Master of Arts in Teaching-Biology, a thirty-six to thirty-eight (36-38) credit hour program which is to be completed within a six (6) year period, is available for either liberal arts graduates who wish to begin preparation for teaching biology at the secondary level or practicing teachers who desire to expand their understanding of the educational process while increasing their formal education in biology and meeting state licensure mandates.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS:

- A completed application form, available from the Graduate School Office, and a \$35.00 non-refundable application fee made payable to Salem State College.
- A complete, official transcript documenting the award of a bachelor's degree.
- Official transcripts of any graduate courses taken or degrees held.
- Three completed Reference for Graduate Admission forms. These forms are available with the application. Please include references from people who have known you in both professional and academic capacities. Completed reference forms may have a letter attached to them.
- Official copy of test results taken within the last five years documenting satisfactory performance on either the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT), those who hold a masters degree are exempt from this requirement.
- All students for whom English is not a first language must submit satisfactory scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), in addition to their MAT or GRE scores.
- A 500-1,000 word, type-written, double-spaced statement of purpose addressing the following questions:
What factors in your personal and professional history have influenced you in the past and now lead you to seek admission to this program at Salem State College?
What are your long-term professional goals, and how will this program help you meet them?
Is there any other information that you think would help the admissions committee to evaluate your application?

Additional Requirements for the M.A.T.-Biology:

- Preliminary licensure as a teacher of Biology (including a passing score on the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure (MTEL), both the communications/literacy portion and the subject area portion appropriate for this program, in addition to other requirements). Students with no teacher preparation coursework or who do not possess a bachelor's degree in the major should consult with the program coordinator.
- Coursework in adolescent psychology.

APPLICATION DEADLINES: Rolling Admissions

11/04 Subsequent to publication of this flowsheet, the Graduate School reserves the right to make changes in courses, program requirements, policies and regulations as circumstances dictate. There is no guarantee that any listed course will be offered in any given semester.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

The Graduate School is currently revising this program to bring it into alignment with the new Massachusetts licensure regulations. The information on this sheet will serve only as general guidelines.

Upon acceptance into the program, you will complete a tentative Plan of Study in consultation with the program coordinator. You must request that any transfer credits be considered at this time. PLEASE NOTE THAT NO MORE THAN THREE COURSES TAKEN AT SALEM STATE COLLEGE BEFORE ADMISSION CAN BE COUNTED TOWARDS THIS PROGRAM. You should meet regularly with the program coordinator to discuss your progress and revise your plan of study as needed.

All candidates for the M.A.T.-Biology must complete 1) a minimum of 36-38 credit hours of graduate course work, as described below, and 2) a comprehensive exam that is taken after most of the course work has been completed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Education Core Courses:

- EDU 808 The American High School 3
- EDU 876 Global Perspectives in Cultural Diversity 3
- EDU 990E Developing Effective Programs for Special Needs Students in the Mainstream 3
(Pre-practicum option)

Biology Core Courses:

- Biology electives selected in consultation with the program coordinator.

Research, Biology OR Education discipline:

- BIO 700 Research Methods in Teaching Science 3
- BIO 711 Computer Applications for the Science Teacher 4
OR
- EDU 737 Theories of Thinking & Learning 3
- EDU 738 Educational Research Across the Curriculum 3

Practicum Experience:

- EDU 925 Practicum Experience 6

Total Credits: 36-38

*Candidates with Professional Licensure (or not seeking it) replace the Practicum Experience requirement with a six (6) credit capstone experience planned with the program coordinator and approved by the Graduate Dean.

Please be aware that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts may change licensure requirements. Students are advised to contact the Commonwealth for specific, current licensure requirements. Students may access that information at www.doe.mass.edu
