

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 (M.A.T.S.) and the Master of Arts in Teaching--Special Education (M.A.T.X.) 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 Early Childhood, Elementary Education, General Curriculum and Instruction, Reading Education, Secondary Education, and Special Education. Most 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. Programs that do not require teaching licensure prior to admission include the M.A.T.S. and M.A.T.X. programs, Special Education certification-only or the Special Education non-certified Emotional/Behavioral Disorder programs, and the Ph.D. concentration in General Curriculum and Instruction.

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 M.A.T.S. and M.A.T.X. Applicants to an M.A.T. 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 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/archives/2018-19/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 will be 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 policy 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 makes 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.

Master of Science in Elementary Education with General Elementary Concentration

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

Electives

Select three electives from the following including at least two EDE and/or RDG courses.		9
EDE 8513	Curriculum and Program Developments in Early Childhood	
EDE 8423	Elementary School Methods	
EDE 8433	The Elementary School Curriculum	
EDE 8443	Seminar in Elementary Education	
EDE 8463	Readings and Research in Children's Literature	
EDE 8523	Practicum: Language Arts and Literacy Development in Early Childhood Education	
EDE 8533	Behavioral Experiences in Early Childhood Education	
EDE 8543	Mathematics Experiences in Early Childhood Education	
EDE 8893	Directed Readings in Teacher Education	
RDG 6113	Middle Level Literacy Development and Instruction	
RDG 8453	Research in Reading	
RDG 8593	Issues and Innovations in Reading	
RDG 8653	Teaching Reading in the Secondary Schools	

Total Hours

33

The written comprehensive examinations for the Master of Science degree are scheduled three times a year. The dates are the fourth Thursday of 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 Science in Elementary Education with Early Childhood Concentration

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
Concentration Courses		
EDE 8513	Curriculum and Program Developments in Early Childhood	3
Select two electives from the following.		6
EDE 8523	Practicum: Language Arts and Literacy Development in Early Childhood Education	
EDE 8533	Behavioral Experiences in Early Childhood Education	
EDE 8463	Readings and Research in Children's Literature	
EDE 8543	Mathematics Experiences in Early Childhood Education	
Total Hours		33

The written comprehensive examinations for the Master of Science degree are scheduled three times a year. The dates are the fourth Thursday of 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.

This program of study requires a minimum of 33 semester hours of coursework beyond the bachelor's degree. The master's program in elementary education is designed to enhance the teaching practice of teachers in grades preK-8 and in all content areas.

Master of Science in Elementary Education with Middle Level Education Concentration

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

Concentration Courses

Select three electives from the following.		9
RDG 6113	Middle Level Literacy Development and Instruction	
EDS 8683	Dispositions and Reflective Practice in Teaching	
EDS 8243	Advanced Planning and Managing of Learning	
EDS 8653	Issues of Accountability in Schools	
EDS 8623	Principles of Effective Instruction in Secondary Schools	
RDG 8653	Teaching Reading in the Secondary Schools	
Total Hours		33

The written comprehensive examinations for the Master of Science degree are scheduled three times a year. The dates are the fourth Thursday of 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.

This program of study requires a minimum of 33 semester hours of coursework beyond the bachelor's degree. The master's program in elementary education is designed to enhance the teaching practice of teachers in grades PreK-8 and in all content areas.

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 three times a year. The dates are the fourth Thursday of 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.

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

This program requires a minimum of 30 hours of coursework beyond the bachelor's degree. Students must also pass a comprehensive written examination. The program is specifically intended to prepare classroom and resource teachers for public schools and institutions for students with disabilities. An add-on teaching-the-gifted endorsement is available. Clinical and practicum experiences are an integral component of the curriculum.

The written comprehensive examinations for the Master of Science degree are scheduled three times a year. The dates are the fourth Thursday of 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

EDS 8243	Advanced Planning and Managing of Learning	3
EPY 6313	Measurement and Evaluation	3
EDS 8886	Dimensions of Learning I	6
EDS 8896	Dimensions of Learning II	6
EDS 8613	Middle and Secondary School Curriculum	3
EDS 66x3	Methods in Secondary Teaching	3
RDG 8653	Teaching Reading in the 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
or TKT 8773	Teaching and Training with Multimedia	
Total Hours		36

The M.A.T.S. program is an alternate route secondary licensure program of study that consists of 36 semester hours of graduate-level coursework. It is designed for a candidate with a bachelor's degree in a content discipline or with significant higher-level coursework in a single discipline who wishes to prepare for a career as a 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.S. candidates must pass the Praxis Core and Praxis II-Specialty Area Test (in the licensure area); and have completed 21 hours of coursework in the content area of licensure. M.A.T.S. students must also pass a certified background check prior to beginning field experiences.

Students in the M.A.T.S. 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.

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 or EDS 6633	Teaching Middle Level Mathematics Content Mathematics Education Pedagogy	3
RDG 8113 or RDG 8123 or RDG 8133 or RDG 8653	Middle Level Literacy Instruction Supporting the Middle Level Literacy Learner Middle Level Content Area Literacy Instruction Teaching Reading in the Secondary Schools	3
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 three times a year. The dates are the fourth Thursday of 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.

Educational Specialist with Major in Education and Concentration in Special Education

EPY 6214	Educational and Psychological Statistics	4
EDX 7000	Directed Individual Study in Special Education	3
EDX 8133	Readings and Research in Exceptional Education	3
EDX 8123	Organization and Supervision of Special Education	3
Other Graduate-level Coursework		18
Total Hours		31

The written comprehensive examinations for the Educational Specialist degrees are scheduled three times a year. The dates are the fourth Thursday of 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

Core Courses

EPY 6214	Educational and Psychological Statistics	4
EPY 8214	Advanced Educational and Psychological Statistics	4
EPY 9213	Advanced 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, Special Education, Reading Education, Early Childhood Education, or General 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.

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).

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

Core Courses

EDE 8113	Middle Level Management and the Young Adolescent	3
EDE 8123	Foundations for Teaching Middle Level Mathematics	3
RDG 8113	Middle Level Literacy Instruction	3
EPY 8473	Middle Level Assessment and Evaluation	3
RDG 8123	Supporting the Middle Level Literacy Learner	3
EDE 8133	Middle Level Internship I	3
EDF 8553	Research in the Classroom	3
EDE 8143	Middle Level Internship 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	36

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.