TEACHING, M.A.

Saint Louis University's Master of Arts in Teaching with alternative certification is designed to provide current and aspiring teachers with an advanced degree and an alternative route to certification through Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). This program welcomes applicants with undergraduate degrees other than education. Individuals who were education majors are also encouraged to explore whether the M.A.T. will fit their career goals.

Program Highlights

In the spirit of the Jesuit tradition (https://www.slu.edu/about/catholic-jesuit-identity/) of education, Saint Louis University's Master of Arts in Teaching program is committed to providing students with:

- Individualized academic experiences
- Opportunities to address social and moral issues related to education, especially in urban settings
- Personalized coaching from the School of Education (https://www.slu.edu/education/)'s faculty, allowing for real-time feedback on student-centered instructional strategies and classroom management

Available Pathways

SLU's Master of Arts in Teaching offers five unique pathways:

- Billiken Teacher Corps (BTC): Cura Community (https://www.slu.edu/education/institutes/billiken-teacher-corps.php)
- Billiken Teacher Corps (BTC): M.A.T. Magis (in-person cohort) (https://www.slu.edu/education/institutes/billiken-teacher-corps.php)
- Billiken Teacher Corps (BTC): M.A.T. Magis (online cohort) (https://www.slu.edu/education/institutes/billiken-teacher-corps.php)
- STL Teaching Fellows @ SLU (https://www.slu.edu/campaign/slu/education/masters-teaching.php?utm_source=soe_google&utm_medium=soe_paid-search&utm_campaign=soe_mat_paid-search_fy24&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiAt4C-BhBcEiwA8Kp0CUcNS9W_yMqUJvW_Z73L9rv3wzjY8-Kc1LBj6pliUTrxzoCXyMKlYRoC3DYQAvD_BwE)
- International M.A.T. for Excellence (iMATE)

> I chose the M.A.T. cohort at SLU because I was ready to teach. I had the experience, content knowledge and desire. This program put me in a classroom immediately and gave me a chance to become officially certified along the way." — Traron Shivers, M.A.T. Class of 2022

Curriculum Overview

This degree is designed to offer students expanded knowledge in pedagogy, current educational practices, and teaching and learning processes. The program requires consistent active engagement in school-based learning environments during the academic year. In order to pursue certification via the alternative route, students must successfully complete the alternative certification requirements as outlined by DESE, including a content-area certification exam. Having obtained Missouri provisional certification, they will teach for two years in an accredited Missouri public or non-public school. Students participate in the school's or district's professional development programs and performance-based teacher evaluation programs during that time.

Courses are concentrated during the summer, with one weekly evening course and a practicum requirement with monthly workshops during the fall and spring semesters, allowing students to focus on teaching during the academic year. Summer courses begin in early summer, preparing students to enter the classroom in August. Students who are already full-time teachers of record may also have the opportunity to begin coursework in the fall or spring semesters with approval from the program director.

Alternative Certification Pathways

Each pathway of SLU's Master of Arts in Teaching with alternative certification is designed to enable students who have undergraduate degrees in content areas and who were not education majors to seek Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education certification via an alternative route.

At the start of the M.A.T. degree, students will apply for their provisional certificate. They will hold this certificate for two years during the program. Students must work with the SLU certification officer to obtain their provisional certificate. Upon successfully graduating from the M.A.T. degree and meeting all additional requirements, graduates apply for their initial certificate.

Billiken Teacher Corps: Cura Community (37-38 credits)

The Billiken Teacher Corps (https://www.slu.edu/education/institutes/billiken-teacher-corps.php): Cura Community is a program for recent college graduates that focuses on holistic support for participants as they begin their careers teaching in Jesuit or underserved Catholic schools. The name Cura Community speaks to the approach of the program, which balances *cura personalis* (care for the whole person) with *cura apostolica* (care for the mission work). The program offers a unique opportunity for participants to live out the Jesuit mission as men and women for and with others, making a transformative impact in their communities. Cura Community members gain two years of full-time teaching experience while earning their Master of Arts in Teaching with full tuition remission. Monthly stipends and low-cost housing are provided as part of this fellowship.

The hallmark of this program is the cohort model. Participants live in a supportive, faith-based community and participate in regular, intentional opportunities for spiritual nourishment, such as retreats and community events. Applicants work with the Billiken Teacher Corps program director to secure a school placement that fits their content background and teaching desires. For more information, contact slued@slu.edu.

Billiken Teacher Corps: M.A.T. Magis - in person (37-38 credits)

Inspired by *magis*, the Latin word for "more," Billiken Teacher Corps: M.A.T. Magis candidates do more as they grow and strengthen their knowledge and support for their students by earning their Master of Arts in Teaching with alternative certification (if applicable). This two-year, 37-38 credit-hour program is a flexible option for individuals who are already secondary, middle or elementary teachers in Catholic schools or who are seeking those positions. M.A.T. Magis is also open to half-time teachers and elementary classroom aides with a bachelor's degree who would like to attain additional credentials.

Unlike the Cura Community, M.A.T. Magis is not a residential program, although opportunities for spiritual development and community building are available to students in this pathway. If not already employed by a Catholic school, M.A.T. Magis applicants work with the Billiken Teacher

Corps program director to secure school employment that fits their content background and teaching desires. Applicants to the M.A.T. Magis program earn an automatic tuition discount when employed by a Catholic school at the start of coursework and throughout the program. For more information, contact slued@slu.edu.

Billiken Teacher Corps: M.A.T. Magis - online (37-38 credits)

Inspired by *magis*, the Latin word for "more," Billiken Teacher Corps: M.A.T. Magis - online candidates do more as they grow and strengthen their knowledge and support for their students by earning their Master of Arts in Teaching with the possibility of earning Missouri state alternative certification. Applicants desiring certification should check with their state to see if Missouri certification will transfer or is reciprocal. This two-year, 37-38 credit-hour program is a flexible option for individuals who are already secondary, middle or elementary teachers in Catholic schools or who are seeking those positions. M.A.T. Magis - online is also open to half-time teachers and elementary classroom aides with a bachelor's degree who would like to attain additional credentials.

Unlike the Cura Community, M.A.T. Magis - online is not a residential program. As M.A.T. Magis - online applicants live in a variety of states, they must secure employment in a Catholic school before beginning classes. Applicants earn an automatic tuition discount when employed by a Catholic school at the start of coursework and throughout the program. For more information, contact slued@slu.edu.

STL Teaching Fellows @ SLU (31-32 credits)

The STL Teaching Fellows @ SLU offers a unique opportunity for students to teach in one of SLU's partner school districts, earning a full-time teaching salary of at least $40,000 while pursuing a master's degree. Once admitted to the M.A.T. program, students receive assistance from our faculty advisors to arrange job interviews at partner schools. We offer a competitive tuition rate to allow students to earn a high-quality degree for roughly $11,000 per year. For more information, contact us at slued@slu.edu or 314-977-3292.

International M.A.T. for Excellence (iMATE) (31-32 credits)

The iMATE program offers international educators the opportunity to advance their careers in education. This two-year program provides teaching experience in St. Louis-area public schools while supporting students' completion of a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree. Students receive personalized coaching from University supervisors and school mentors, and complete requirements for an alternative teaching certification. For more information, contact us at slued@slu.edu or 314-977-3292.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

Master of Arts in Teaching with alternative certification students teach full-time for two years on a provisional teaching certificate from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The school principal assigns a mentor who teaches in the same content area as the student and at a similar grade level. A University supervisor makes classroom observations and holds follow-up conferences every month.

SLU faculty assist students with job placement in partner schools before the beginning of the program, if needed.

Careers

Possible careers for graduates with a Master of Arts in Teaching include teaching at the secondary, middle or elementary level. SLU is approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide alternative certification in the following areas:

- Art (K-12)
- Biology (9-12)
- Business (9-12)
- Chemistry (9-12)
- Computer science (9-12)
- English (9-12)
- English language arts (5-9)
- Family and consumer science (K-12)
- French (K-12)
- General science (9-12)
- German (K-12)
- Health (K-12)
- Instrumental music (K-12)
- Latin (K-12)
- Vocal music (K-12)
- Math (5-9; 9-12)
- Mandarin (K-12)
- Physical education (K-12)
- Physics (9-12)
- Science (5-9)
- Social studies (5-9; 9-12)
- Speech and theater (5-9; 9-12)
- Spanish (K-12)

Those looking to earn certification at the elementary level may pursue it through an alternate route. Information is available on the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website.

> The MAT coursework has given me the opportunity to look at my work from a new perspective while also being flexible with my school schedule. What I've learned in class helps me to make better decisions in my day-to-day teaching, but more importantly, it helps me to see the overall importance of working in education." – Megan Kraus, Class of 2024

Admission Requirements

Master of Arts in Teaching with alternative certification applicants must have completed a bachelor's degree or higher in a content area or a related field of the desired certificate from a regionally accredited (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/regional_accredidation/) institution.

All students seeking teacher certification from the State of Missouri must attempt the state required content assessment (Praxis) at least once before summer one classes. If not passed, they must attempt the exam again prior to the beginning of the fall one term. If Praxis is not passed, earning certification cannot be guaranteed.

Application Requirements

- Application form
- Transcript(s)

- Letters of recommendation:
  - Billiken Teacher Corps: Cura Community: Four letters
  - Billiken Teacher Corps: M.A.T. Magis (in person & online): Two letters
  - STL Teaching Fellows @ SLU: Two letters
- Résumé
- Professional goal statement (see application portal for prompts)

Requirements for International Students

The Master of Arts in Teaching degree programs is only open to international students who have an employer-sponsored work visa to teach in the St. Louis metro area.

All Saint Louis University admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students. International students applying to SLU must also meet the following additional requirements:

- Demonstrate English language proficiency (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/)
- Academic records must include an English translation. Unofficial copies may be accepted in some cases for initial admission review, however official copies must be received prior to enrollment. Course-by-course transcript evaluations are accepted and are required in some cases.

Students must submit financial documents to be issued an I-20 for their F-1 visa application. Proof of financial support must include:

- A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the student's time at Saint Louis University
- A letter from the sponsor's bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of the student's study at the University

Please note that application deadlines for this program differ for international students.

Application Deadlines

For aspiring and beginning teachers, a summer start for classes is required. If teachers who are already employed are applying for the M.A.T. degree, they may begin in the fall or spring semesters with approval from the program director. The application deadlines are as follows:

Billiken Teacher Corps: Cura Community:

- Summer semester: January 25 (priority deadline); April 15 (final deadline). (This program offers a summer start only due to the residential living component.)

Billiken Teacher Corps: M.A.T. Magis (in person & online):

- Summer semester: January 25 (priority deadline); April 15 (final deadline).

STL Teaching Fellows @ SLU:

- Summer semester: March 1 (priority deadline); April 1 (final deadline).

Review Process

A committee reviews each application holistically.

Tuition

Tuition	Cost Per Credit
Master of Arts in Teaching (Billiken Teacher Corps: Cura Community & M.A.T. Magis - in person & online)	$470
Master of Arts in Teaching (STL Teaching Fellows & iMATE)	$710

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Information on Tuition and Fees (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/)

Miscellaneous Fees (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/)

Information on Summer Tuition (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer-current/)

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Students should complete their applications by the program admission deadlines for priority consideration for departmental graduate scholarships. For more information, visit the Office of Student Financial Services (https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/).

Each of the M.A.T. pathways offers unique scholarship opportunities.

Billiken Teacher Corps: Cura Community

Cura Community members gain two years of full-time teaching experience while earning their Master of Arts in Teaching with full tuition remission. Monthly stipends and low-cost housing are provided as part of this fellowship. This scholarship is premised upon successful adherence to the Billiken Teacher Corps: Cura Community residence standards and the standards for teachers in Catholic schools. For more information, contact slued@slu.edu or 314-977-3292.

Billiken Teacher Corps: M.A.T. Magis (in person and online)

Those working in Catholic schools automatically receive scholarships covering up to one-third of the M.A.T. degree. Applicants to the M.A.T. Magis program earn the automatic tuition discount when employed by a Catholic school at the start of coursework and throughout the program. For more information, contact slued@slu.edu or 314-977-3292.

STL Teaching Fellows @ SLU

Scholarship opportunities may be available for those who apply by the priority deadline. All applicants are reviewed for scholarships at the time of admission. For more information, contact us at slued@slu.edu or 314-977-3292.

International M.A.T. for Excellence (iMATE)

iMATE students gain two years of teaching experience at partner public schools in the St. Louis area while earning their Master of Arts in Teaching with full tuition remission. This scholarship is premised upon successful adherence to the Saint Louis University standards and the standards for teachers in partner schools. For more information, contact us at slued@slu.edu or 314-977-3292.

Learning Outcomes

1. **Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment:** Graduates will design, implement, and assess innovative, standards-aligned curriculum and instruction that draws on strong pedagogical knowledge, effective planning, and a range of instructional strategies to promote student learning, critical thinking, and academic growth. *Aligned MEES Standards: 1, 3, 4, 7*
2. **Learner-Centered, Responsive Teaching and Inclusive Practice:** Graduates will use their knowledge of how students learn and differ in their development, motivation, and backgrounds to create inclusive and responsive learning environments that support the intellectual, social, emotional, individual, and spiritual (where applicable) development of all students. *Aligned MEES Standards: 2, 5*
3. **Professionalism, Collaboration and Teacher Leadership:** Graduates will serve as reflective teacher leaders who, grounded in the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm, continually examine and adjust their dispositions and practices, engage in ongoing professional growth, and build effective, collaborative relationships with students, families, colleagues, and communities. *Aligned MEES Standards: 6, 8, 9*
4. **Social Justice and Teaching in Context:** Graduates will advocate for their students and local communities in the relentless pursuit of a hope-filled future through asset-based pedagogy and consistent engagement with students and stakeholders in efforts of reconciliation and justice.

Requirements

Master of Arts in Teaching with alternative certification students must complete the Missouri requirements for a provisional certificate, the appropriate Praxis test, and all other certification requirements established by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

All students seeking teacher certification from the State of Missouri must attempt Praxis at least once before summer one classes. If not passed, they must attempt the exam again prior to the beginning of the fall one term. If Praxis is not passed, earning certification cannot be guaranteed.

M.A.T. students collaborate with their school mentor and university supervisor to schedule observations aligned with the Missouri Educator Evaluation System (MEES).

Additionally, students must participate in the assigned school district's professional development programs.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
EDF 5600	Foundations of Urban Education	3
EDF 5700	Advanced Growth and Development	3
EDI 5390	Teaching Reading: Contemporary Issues & Practices	3
EDI 5590	Disciplinary Literacy Assessment & Intervention	3
EDI 5890	Capstone in Master of Arts in Teaching	3
EDI 6230	Seminar in Instruction	3
EDI 6250	Practicum Curriculum and Instruction (taken over multiple semesters)	4
EDI 6550	Principles of Assessment for Education Settings	3
EDSP 5240	Classroom Organization and Management (Early Childhood, ECSE, Elementary, Special Education)	3
or EDSP 5250	Classroom Organization and Management (Middle, Secondary and Special Education)	
EDSP 5310	Advanced Studies in Psych/Educ the Exceptional Child	3
Billiken Teacher Corps members (Cura Community & M.A.T. Magis)		
Students must take the following additional two courses:		6
EDF 5835	Foundations of Catholic Education	
EDI 5360	Principles and Methods of Catechesis	
Total Credits		**31-37**

Students seeking Middle School (5-9) certification may also take EDI 5760 Middle Level Philosophy & Organization (1 cr).

Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.

Roadmap

This roadmap is just one example of a semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. There are other plans students can and do take. The plan of study for each particular student is established in consultation with each student's academic advisor; *this roadmap does not replace academic advising appointments.*

Roadmap notes:

- This Roadmap assumes full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.
- Courses/Milestones marked with an "!" are critical and must be completed in the semester listed in the Roadmap to ensure a timely graduation.
- Course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Master of Arts in Teaching with Alternative Certification (STL Teaching Fellows @ SLU)

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Summer		
EDSP 5240 or EDSP 5250	Classroom Organization and Management (Early Childhood, ECSE, Elementary, Special Education) or Classroom Organization and Management (Middle, Secondary and Special Education)	3
EDI 6230	Seminar in Instruction	3
	Credits	**6**
Fall		
EDF 5700	Advanced Growth and Development	3
EDI 6250	Practicum Curriculum and Instruction	1
	Credits	**4**

Spring		
EDI 5390	Teaching Reading: Contemporary Issues & Practices	3
EDI 6250	Practicum Curriculum and Instruction	1
	Credits	**4**
Year Two		
Summer		
EDF 5600	Foundations of Urban Education	3
EDI 6550	Principles of Assessment for Education Settings	3
EDSP 5310	Advanced Studies in Psych/Educ the Exceptional Child	3
	Credits	**9**
Fall		
EDI 5590	Disciplinary Literacy Assessment & Intervention	3
EDI 5760	Middle Level Philosophy & Organization (Required for students seeking Middle School (5-9) certification.)	1
EDI 6250	Practicum Curriculum and Instruction	1
	Credits	**4-5**
Spring		
EDI 5890	Capstone in Master of Arts in Teaching	3
EDI 6250	Practicum Curriculum and Instruction	1
	Credits	**4**
	Total Credits	**31-32**

Master of Arts in Teaching with Alternative Certification (Billiken Teacher Corps: Cura Community and M.A.T. Magis)

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Summer		
EDI 6230	Seminar in Instruction	3
EDF 5700	Advanced Growth and Development	3
EDSP 5240 or EDSP 5250	Classroom Organization and Management (Early Childhood, ECSE, Elementary, Special Education) or Classroom Organization and Management (Middle, Secondary and Special Education)	3
	Credits	**9**
Fall		
EDI 5390	Teaching Reading: Contemporary Issues & Practices	3
EDI 6250	Practicum Curriculum and Instruction	1
	Credits	**4**
Spring		
EDI 5590	Disciplinary Literacy Assessment & Intervention	3
EDI 6250	Practicum Curriculum and Instruction	1
	Credits	**4**
Year Two		
Summer		
EDI 6550	Principles of Assessment for Education Settings	3
EDF 5600	Foundations of Urban Education	3
EDSP 5310	Advanced Studies in Psych/Educ the Exceptional Child	3
	Credits	**9**
Fall		
EDF 5835	Foundations of Catholic Education	3
EDI 6250	Practicum Curriculum and Instruction	1
	Credits	**4**
Spring		
EDI 5360	Principles and Methods of Catechesis	3
EDI 6250	Practicum Curriculum and Instruction	1
EDI 5890	Capstone in Master of Arts in Teaching	3
EDI 5760	Middle Level Philosophy & Organization (Required for students seeking Middle School (5-9) certification in Language Arts, Math, Science, and/or Social Studies.)	1
	Credits	**7-8**
	Total Credits	**37-38**

Contact Us

Apply for Admission (https://www.slu.edu/admission/)

For additional admission questions, please contact:
Saint Louis University School of Education
314-977-3292
slued@slu.edu