

TEACHING, M.A.T. (SPECIAL EDUCATION)

Overview

Degree Program

The Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) (<https://www.biola.edu/degrees/g/teaching-ma/>) is primarily designed for two audiences:

1. Students with a B.A. or B.S. in any subject who desire to earn a credential while working towards a Masters.
2. Credentialed teachers who desire to sharpen their practitioner skills through induction, the Clear Credential, and/or enter a personalized program for advanced coursework.

Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Master of Arts in Teaching, students will be able to:

1. Analyze, evaluate, and apply knowledge of current educational issues, settings, and legislative requirements from a biblical perspective (ULO 1).
2. Identify personal assumptions and generalizations related to diversity (e.g., gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, and [dis]abilities) while affirming that all students are valued as image bearers of God (ULO 2).
3. Demonstrate Christian attitudes and actions conducive to the development of professional excellence and witness to the community (ULO 3).
4. Exhibit growth in one's professional practice by utilizing professional databases, conducting empirical research, and articulating findings through effective communication in both speaking and writing. (ULO 1, 2, 3).
5. Synthesize knowledge, skills, and perspectives from concentration-specific content of the master of teaching program to determine implications for professional practice (ULO 2).

Each Program Learning Outcome (PLO) listed above references at least one of the University Learning Outcomes (ULO 1, 2, 3), which may be found in the General Information (<http://catalog.biola.edu/general-information/>) section of this catalog.

Requirements

Admission Requirements

- Applicants must have completed all bachelor's requirements prior to the start of the program and must have a bachelor's degree conferred from a regionally accredited institution prior to the start of the second term.
- Foreign transcripts must be evaluated by an approved organization and verified equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree.
- Have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Writing proficiency will be evaluated for each applicant in one or more of the following ways: a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above; passage of the CBEST or all CSET subtests, an academic paper, the application essays, or the GRE.

- Applicants for whom English is not a primary language must verify a score of 100 iBT on the TOEFL exam.
- Complete Biola University's Graduate Education Application.
- Interview with a member of the School of Education.

Students enrolling in online programs will need all of the above listed admissions requirements as well as the following:

- Verify computer literacy sufficient to become actively engaged in learning online by passing an online proficiency test offered by Biola University's Distance Learning Department or providing proof of successful online learning in a prior course.
- Verify access to a computer and the Internet sufficient to engage in Biola University's Distance Learning Programs.

Official documents presented for admission or evaluation become part of the student's academic file and normally cannot be returned or copied for distribution.

Graduation Requirements

1. M.A.T. core courses and Capstone must be passed with a grade of "B" or higher.
2. Candidates must complete the Master of Arts in Teaching with a 3.0 cumulative GPA.
3. Candidates must successfully complete SEED 594 Action Research, and all professional requirements (e.g., electronic portfolio, including key assignments) related to the coursework and learning outcomes.
4. Candidates must demonstrate professional behavior as an important aspect of their preparation to effectively impact the field of education (inside and beyond the classroom). For candidates on probationary status, or where a candidate has struggled with professional dispositions (scores of 1 or 2), these concerns may prevent the candidate from moving forward in the program and graduation.
5. A minimum of 30 credits is required for the Master of Arts in Teaching.
6. Candidates must complete the program within five years of continuous enrollment. Candidates who are not continuously enrolled must complete the program within eight years total.
7. Candidates must meet with a department advisor and Graduate Graduation Counselor in the Office of the Registrar one year prior to graduation to declare intent to graduate. (See Graduate Graduation Check description in the Admission, Enrollment and Graduation Requirements (<http://catalog.biola.edu/general-information/admission-enrollment-graduation-requirements/>) section).

Transfer of Credits

Students transferring from an accredited graduate program may transfer a maximum of 6 approved credits for their M.A. in Teaching. Courses transferred must be equivalent to Biola University's and have direct applicability to the student's program design. Only courses with a grade of "B" (3.0) on a 4.0 grade scale or higher will be considered for transfer towards the M.A. in Teaching degree; a grade of "B-" is not transferable. Credits considered for transfer must have been taken within five years prior to the date of admission.

Curriculum Requirements

Offered online

Code	Title	Credits
Program Courses		
Courses must be passed with a grade of "B" or higher.		
SEED 501	Philosophy and Values in Schools and Society	3
SEED 524	Research in Culture and Intercultural Instruction	3
SEED 554	Professional Writing ¹	3
SEED 570	Introduction to Spiritual Formation for the Educator	3
Select one of the following:		3
TTBE 732	Exposition of New Testament Segments or Themes (taken as "Life of Christ")	
Other approved TTBE 3-credit course		
Special Education Specialization Courses		
SEED 561	Issues in Special Education	3
Select 9 credits from the following:		9
SEED 562	Assessment and Evaluation of Exceptional Learners	
SEED 563	Teaching Students with Mild to Moderate Support Needs in Inclusive Settings	
SEED 564	Behavior and Classroom Management for Students with Special Needs	
SEED 580	Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders	
Capstone Course		
Course must be passed with a grade of "B" or higher.		
SEED 594	Action Research ²	3
Total Credits		30

¹ Successful passage of SEED 554 is required for advancement in the program. Writing support and documentation may be mandatory for some students.

² To produce quality research, it is recommended to be the only course taken in the final semester.