

Master of Arts in Teaching Early Childhood Education – PreK-3 Licensure

Frequently Asked Questions	1
The Application Processes: Grad School & Teacher Ed.	2 - 4
Registering for Classes	5
Graduate Assistantships	6
Tests & Licensing	7
Contact Information	8
Professional Accreditation Standards	9

Frequently Asked Questions

What do I get?

Degree: Master of the Arts in Teaching (MAT)
Virginia Teaching License: Preschool – 3rd grade Early Childhood Educ. (ECED)

When does it start and how long does it take?

The program begins in the fall (August). Full-time students can complete the program in three semesters and one summer. Part time students are subject to varying timelines. Graduation is always the end of the fall semester in early December. The program consists of 41 credit hours.

Who is eligible to apply?

Anyone who already holds a bachelors degree or anticipates receiving his or her degree within the year.

How many students are in the program?

Each fall approximately 15-18 candidates enter the program. If you are a full-time student, you can expect to have the same group of classmates for all of your classes.

Who are these students?

The range of students' backgrounds is diverse. Bachelor's degrees include business, the arts, social sciences, sciences, technological careers, and the like. Some students enter the program directly from having received their undergraduate degrees, but many students return for their Master's degrees years after having received their undergraduate degree.

What kind of practical experience will I receive?

Each semester teacher candidates participate in area schools, two full days per week for the entire semester. Candidates who work as teacher aides may be permitted to use that experience to meet practicum requirements. Students who work are encouraged to seek employment that enriches their teacher education studies.

When are the classes and can I work and take classes at the same time?

Fall & Spring semester classes are typically held late afternoon and evening to allow candidates to work as graduate assistants, substitute teachers, or teacher aides. Summer classes are held during the second, six-week session, last week of June through the first week of August. Summer classes are typically held two full days a week. The final fall semester includes a 12-week, full-day student teaching internship and 1 additional class.

In order to get the most out of the graduate school experience, part time work is appropriate except during student teaching when students are expected to be FULLY available to the demands of that experience. Good financial planning will enable students to take full advantage of the opportunities within the program and the University.

Can I afford it?

To get the most of this experience, a loan may help you achieve your goal without other pressures and help you reach your goal sooner. The financial aid office is available to assist you. In addition to graduate tuition for 41 credits, there are textbooks, miscellaneous fees, and various tests required by the State of Virginia. See details under the “tests and fees” section.

Small departmental and college-wide scholarships are available January-February for currently enrolled students. Students are encouraged to apply for as many scholarships for which they are eligible. <http://welcome.coe.jmu.edu/scholarships/>

Can I student teach outside the area as opposed to near Harrisonburg?

Although student teaching out of the area is permitted in certain locales, requests are not guaranteed. Students will be expected to travel to campus about 4 times during the student teaching semester.

APPLICATION PROCESS – 3 STEPS

Step 1: Transcript Review and Interview

Schedule a meeting with Dr. Holly McCartney (program director and advisor). You will need to bring a copy (unofficial is sufficient) of your undergraduate transcript(s) to determine eligibility and any prerequisite courses that may be needed. If you are outside the area, you may send your transcripts to the mailing address below* or email them.

Contact info:

E-mail (preferred): mccarthb@jmu.edu, Tele. number: (540) 568-8753

Office: 3210- C Memorial Hall (second floor facing High Street)

Location: College of Education, Memorial Hall
365 S. High Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

*Mailing address:

MSC 6909, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Step 2: Applying to Graduate School

Complete the on-line application for obtaining the graduate degree – Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T. in ECED) <http://www.jmu.edu/grad/>

Including:

- 1) Requesting official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended.
- 2) Submitting a test score (TWO OPTIONS)
 - a). The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) <http://www.gre.org/splash.html>

OR

- b). The Miller Analogies Test (MAT) (least expensive)
May be taken locally at Eastern Mennonite University, Tues- Thurs.
<http://emu.edu/careers/testing/community> or (540)432-4131

Scores must be in the 25 percentile or higher for either the GRE or the Miller Analogy.

- 3) A personal statement submitted as outlined on the Grad school website stating why you would like to become a teacher.
- 4) Three references (include both personal and professional references. Name and contact information only, letters of reference are not required)

NOTE Your application to the **Graduate School**, if accepted, will likely be “conditionally” accepted. After all the conditions have been met, including being fully accepted into **Teacher Education**, see **Step 3**, you are responsible for upgrading your status to “unconditional”.

It is your responsibility to let your advisor know when all conditions have been met. These conditions specified in your acceptance letter include receipt of satisfactory Praxis Core & Praxis II/Elementary Education scores. These must be met before registering for the 2nd semester of classes or beyond 12 credit hours. Complete the “graduate status change request” form available from <http://www.jmu.edu/grad/> and bring to your advisor/program coordinator for a signature. The Graduate School will not accept handwritten forms.

*The state of Virginia requires that candidates for licensure in early education must have completed a liberal arts degree or demonstrate competencies in the following areas through the following content requirements: 12 credit hours in English (6 composition, 3 literature and 3 oral communications); 9 credit hours each of math and science (including one course with a lab); 3 credits each of world history, US history, geography and economics plus 6

credit hours in arts and humanities. Credits for these courses may be transferred from other institutions including community colleges.

Also required for all teacher education programs at JMU are 3 credits each in “Human Dev. Across the Life Span” and “Foundations of American Education.”

Step 3: Applying to Teacher Education

Education Support Center website

<http://www.jmu.edu/coe/esc/admissions/application.shtml>

You need to follow and complete all the steps outlined in the application process.

After you have been admitted to the Graduate School and have received your student ID, you should apply for admission to Teacher Education. Your application to Teacher Education through JMU’s Education Support Center is the first step in the process of obtaining your Virginia State Teaching License.

To be accepted into Teacher Education, candidates must have a **minimum undergraduate** GPA of 2.75 or must establish a JMU GPA of 2.75 or better by taking 9 or more credit hours. These may include PSYC 160 and EDUC 300, content prerequisites or courses within the program.

Unconditional acceptance into Teacher Education for the ECED MAT program requires both Praxis Core (unless waived) and Praxis II. They may be taken in any order and may be taken PRIOR TO or AFTER submitting your application to Teacher Education. Passing scores on both tests are required for “unconditional” acceptance into the ECED MAT graduate program. If you are waiving Praxis I you must submit your SAT scores to the Education Support Center.

1. Complete the online application form

Print it and bring it to me for my signature or mail to Dr. Holly McCartney, JMU, MSC 6909, Harrisonburg, VA 22807. I will forward your signed form to the Education Support Center.

2. Once the ESC receives your signed application they will put you into the system and then you can complete the rest of the application steps in that process. Be sure you are following the steps for Transfer or Graduate (not in 5 year program). Please call the Educational Support Center (568-6274) if you have any questions along the way.

3. If you are not a JMU graduate you must provide a copy of your final undergraduate transcript to the Education Support Center after you have submitted your application.

4. Submit transcripts of all additional content courses, those specified as “conditions” in your Graduate letter of acceptance, to the Education Support Center.

Praxis Core – Reading, Writing, Mathematics - Praxis I is waived for candidates with SAT scores of 1100 or higher, with the minimum scores: 530 Math and 530 Verbal. Before 4/1/1995, a score of 1000 and minimum of 450 Verbal and 510 Math will exempt Praxis Core. ACT composite scores of 24, Math-22, Plus Reading-46 will also exempt Praxis Core.

Passing score for Praxis Core can be found on the ESC webpage.

Praxis II –If you are taking the Praxis II before July 1 2015 sign up for code 5031 Elementary Education. AFTER July 1, 2015, sign up for code 5001.

For Virginia department of education licensing requirements and information on tests please see:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/prof_teacher_assessment.pdf

For PRAXIS testing dates and times see: www.ets.org

Registering for Classes

To register for the first full semester (12 credit hours) students must have been accepted into the graduate program AND must have submitted their application to Teacher Education (see above).

Students who are not yet accepted into the graduate program, may request permission of the program coordinator to register as a “non degree seeking student” <http://www.jmu.edu/grad/> This exception applies to part time students only.

To register for classes:

1. https://mymadison.jmu.edu/psp/pprd/JMU/CUST/h/?tab=JMU_GUEST_TAB
2. Sign in to **MyMadison** above using the information received from the Graduate School.
3. To obtain a password, go to <http://accounts.jmu.edu/login/>

Teacher Education & ECED MAT Program Prerequisite Courses:

- PSYC 160: Human Development Across the Life Span - may be taken at Community College and transferred to JMU. The course number will be different. You must make sure the title and content spans from birth through death.
- EDUC 300: Foundations of Education and must be taken at a 4 year institution. Contact the EFEX departmental secretary, Shelia Ward, if you need an override. ward3sp@jmu.edu This course is offered online each semester and often in the summer.
- Specific content courses as determined by a review of your transcript

After meeting all of the requirements for “unconditional acceptance” into the graduate program, the student must acquire his/her advisor’s signature on the status change form and submit it to the Graduate School <http://www.jmu.edu/grad/> before registering for the second semester of classes.

Schedule & Sequence of Courses for Full Time Students

Pre-requisites	Fall I	Spring	Summer (2 nd 6 weeks)	Fall II
GPSYC 160.3	ECED 508.3	ECED 544.3	ELED 632.3	ECED 690.6
EDUC 300.3	ECED 511.3	ECED 611.3	ECED 510.3	ELED 633.1
Other	ECED 512.3	ECED 609.3		ECED 641.2*
Content:	READ 566.3	READ 636.3		
		ECED 641.2*		
	12 credits	12/14 credits	6 credits	7/9 credits

You have the option to take 641 in spring or fall (during student teaching).

The Graduate Program - ECED M.A.T.

Prefix, course #, (credits hrs), sem. taken (Fall, Spring Summer)	Course Title
ECED 508 (3) F	Observation & Study of Young Children <i>Prerequisite</i> – GPSYC 160
ECED 511 (3) F	ECED Practicum with Attention to Diversity
ECED 512 (3) F	Facilitating Children’s Natural and Soc.Science
READ 566 (3) F	Literacy Acquisition and the Dev. of the Young Reader
ECED 544 (3) S	Children and Mathematics in Grades PreK-3.
ECED 611 (3) S	ECED Practicum with Attention to Special Ed <i>Prerequisite</i> – ECED 511
ECED 609 (3) S	Constructivist Curriculum
READ 636 (3) S	Primary Grades Literacy Learning <i>Prerequisite</i> – READ 566
ECED 641 (2) S	Schools and Families in ECED <i>Co-requisite</i> ECED 690 (can also wait and take this in the fall during student teaching)
ECED 510 (3) SU	Creativity and the Arts in ECED
ELED 632 (3) SU	Inquiry in Elementary Education <i>Prerequisite</i> – ECED 609
ELED 633 (1) F	Seminar in Education Inquiry <i>Co-requisite</i> - ECED 690
ECED 690 (8) F	Student Teaching Internship in ECED <i>Prerequisites</i> – ECED 510, 512, 544, 611, READ 636, ELED 632

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate assistantships usually involve working 20 hours/wk and offer a tuition waiver equivalent to three classes per semester and a bi-weekly stipend amounting to about \$3000

per semester. To be eligible students must be unconditionally **or** conditionally accepted into a graduate program. Positions are very limited - early application is encouraged – (typically Jan.-Feb. for following Fall) For more information and to apply, contact the EERE department administrative assistant, Melissa Rebich at rebichmm@jmu.edu.

Testing & Fee Requirements for the ECED MAT (updated 11/14)

Test/Fee	Recommended Timeline	Deadline	How to register
GRE OR Miller Analogy Test	Fall/spring for following Fall acceptance	Required for application to graduate school	See page 3
Application Fee to Graduate School	Fall/spring for following Fall acceptance	Required for application to graduate school	See page 3
Application to Teacher Education TK20	Following acceptance into Graduate Program	Prior to fulltime registration of fall semester classes	See page 4 http://coe.jmu.edu/esc
JOIN NAEYC	Fall semester	September 15th	www.naeyc.org
Praxis Core or SAT I waiver * Passing Score: 532	<u>Before</u> starting the program	Passing scores must be received before registering beyond 12 credit hours and to be unconditionally accepted into the MAT program	http://www.ets.org Register for Reading (5712), Math (5732) and Writing (5722) You can take all 3 in the same morning
Praxis II/Elementary Multiple subjects Code # 5031	Before you begin the program	Before registering for 2 nd semester classes and to be unconditionally accepted into the MAT program	www.ets.org Register for test code 5031 if taking before July 1, 2015. If taking after July 1, 2015 register for code 5001.
VCLA Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment Writing Sub Test: 235 Reading Sub	Spring – during second semester	Before graduation Required for licensure	http://www.vra.nesinc.com Register for both reading 091 and writing 092 subtests

Test: 235 Composite Score: 470			
RVE Reading for Virginia Educators Passing score: 157	After READ 636 or end of spring sem.	Before graduation Required for licensure	http://www.ets.org/praxis/va . 5306 computer-based
Licensing Fee	At end of student teaching		

* Qualifying scores for Praxis Core waiver If you scored 1100 or more on the SAT-I with at least 530 in verbal and math or had ACT scores with a composite of 24, 22 in math and 46 in English+Reading, you can substitute these scores for Praxis Core.

(JMU alumni only) Access to SAT/ACT scores Go to MyMadison, log-in and find the drop-down box. Click on test scores. You will need to take a copy of the score report that you received from ETS to the Education Support Center in Memorial Hall, if you are using it to waive Praxis I.

Important Dates:

- Application to Student Teaching – Complete during first fall semester (October) for the following fall student teaching. See Education Support Center http://www.jmu.edu/coe/esc/student_teaching/
- Application to Graduate – See dates on Graduate School website (Oct. for Dec. graduation)

Contact & Location Information (Tel. area code – 540) www.jmu.edu

Dr. Holly McCartney, Program Coordinator	Memorial Hall, Room 3210-D	568-8753	mccarthb@jmu.edu
Mrs. Melissa Reibich, Dept. Secr.	Mem. Hall 3100 Dept Secretary	568-6255	rebeichmm@jmu.edu
Education Support Center	Mem. Hall, 7230 Teacher Edu	568-6274	http://www.jmu.edu/coe/esc/
JMU College of Edu	Memorial Hall 395 S.High Street	568-2812	http://welcome.coe.jmu.edu/
Graduate School	17 West Grace Street	568-6169 568-6131	http://www.jmu.edu/grad/
Outreach and Engagement (for "non degree seeking students")	Ice House MSC 6906 Harrisonburg, VA 22807	568-4253	http://www.jmu.edu/outreach/index.shtml
JMU Registration	Student Success Building 5 th floor	568-3737	http://www.jmu.edu/registrar/handbook.shtml

Financial Aid	Student Success Building 5 th floor	568-7820	http://www.jmu.edu/finaid/800X600/index.html
Parking Services	Parking Deck 381 Bluestone Dr.	568-3300	_http://web.jmu.edu/parking/

Professional organizations & contacts:

- Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) – www.acei.org
- National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) – www.naeyc.org
- Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education (VAECE) – www.vaece.org
- Virginia Education Association (VEA) - <http://www.veaweteach.org/>
- Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) – www.ascd.org
- National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) – www.nameorg.org
- Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) – www.doe.virginia.gov

Area school divisions

- Harrisonburg City – www.harrisonburg.k12.va.us
- Rockingham County – www.rockingham.k12.va.us
- Augusta County – www.augusta.k12.va.us
- Waynesboro City – www.waynesboro.k12.va.us
- Staunton City – www.staunton.k12.va.us
- Shenandoah County – www.shenandoah.k12.va.us
- Page County www.page.k12.va.us

Initial Licensure Standards

National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

NOTE: *Candidate* is the term used to designate the student who is acquiring a license to teach in prek-3. These standards are the professional standards that guide curriculum decisions at the program level.

Standard 1. Promoting Child Development and Learning

Candidates are grounded in a child development knowledge base and use their understanding of young children’s characteristics and needs, and of multiple interacting influences on children’s development and learning, to create environments that are healthy, respectful, supportive, and challenging for all children.

Standard 2. Building Family and Community Relationships

Candidates know about, understand, and value the importance and complex characteristics of children’s families and communities. They use this understanding to create respectful, reciprocal relationships that support and empower families, and to involve all families in their children’s development and learning.

Standard 3. Observing, Documenting, and Assessing to Support Young Children and Families

Candidates know about and understand the goals, benefits, and uses of assessment. They know about and use systematic observations, documentation, and other effective assessment strategies in a responsible way, in partnership with families and other professionals, to positively influence children’s development and learning.

Standard 4. Using Developmentally effective approaches to connect with children and families

Candidates integrate their understanding of and relationships with children and families; their understanding of developmentally effective approaches to teaching and learning; and their knowledge of academic disciplines to design, implement, and evaluate experiences that promote positive development and learning for all children.

Sub-Standard 4a. Understanding positive relationships and supportive interactions as the foundation of their work with children

Sub-Standard 4b. Knowing and understanding effective strategies and tools for early education

Sub-Standard 4c. Understand and use a broad repertoire of developmentally appropriate teaching/learning approaches

Sub-Standard 4d. Reflect on their own practice to promote positive outcomes for each child

Standard 5. Using content knowledge to build meaningful curriculum

Candidates use their own knowledge and other resources to design, implement, and evaluate meaningful, challenging curriculum that promotes comprehensive developmental and learning outcomes for all young children.

Standard 6. Becoming a Professional

Candidates identify and conduct themselves as members of the early childhood profession. They know and use ethical guidelines and other professional standards related to early childhood practice. They are continuous, collaborative learners who demonstrate knowledgeable, reflective, and critical perspectives on their work, making informed decisions that integrate knowledge from a variety of sources. They are informed advocates for sound educational practices and policies.