

**TOPIC: APPROVAL OF MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (M.A.T.)  
WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION GENERALIST ENDORSEMENT  
AT MSCD**

**PREPARED BY: DR. IAN MACGILLIVRAY**

**I. SUMMARY**

This consent item requests initial approval for Metropolitan State College of Denver (MSCD) to offer a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree. Along with this new degree, the college will offer a teacher preparation endorsement in Special Education Generalist (9.06).

**II. BACKGROUND**

The following is summarized from MSCD's proposal with additions by staff to ensure accuracy and clarity.

**OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED DEGREE:**

The proposed 46 credit M.A.T. degree is for students pursuing initial teacher licensure and who already hold a baccalaureate degree. Candidates will be able to complete the degree in two years or four semesters. Courses will be delivered in a variety of methods including hybrid, online, face to face, evenings and weekends. Though this new degree will likely attract many candidates out of Metro's current post-baccalaureate teacher preparation program, Metro will retain the post-baccalaureate program, which has fewer requirements and will still hold appeal for some students.

**FIT WITH INSTITUTION'S ROLE AND MISSION:**

Department staff conclude that the proposed M.A.T. fits Metro's role and mission:

*Metropolitan state college of Denver shall offer a variety of liberal arts and science, technical, and educational programs. The college may offer a limited number of professional programs. In furtherance of its role and mission, Metropolitan state college of Denver may offer master's degree programs that address the needs of its urban service area.*

Metro's teacher preparation program is the second largest in the state (after the University of Northern Colorado) and in 2009 had 1,674 students enrolled (according to the Teacher Ed File, SURDS database). According to Metro's proposal, its mission is to educate the "student who might not otherwise have an opportunity to attend college. The tuition [and fees] for Metro State are the lowest [of any four-year college] in the state and the institution attracts the most diverse students in the state."

**EVIDENCE OF NEED:**

There is a state and national need for Special Education Generalist teachers.

**EVIDENCE OF STUDENT DEMAND:**

The proposed M.A.T. holds special appeal for Metro's post-baccalaureate students, who comprise 30% of all teacher preparation students at Metro. Ninety-nine percent of post-baccalaureate and Teacher in Residence/Colorado Alternative Special Education Licensure (CASEL) students are interested in a master's degree if their coursework would count towards it.

**SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN THE STATE:**

Similar graduate degrees leading to initial teacher licensure at public institutions are currently offered at Colorado State University and the University of Colorado Denver and will soon be offered at Western State College. Private institutions with similar degrees are Colorado College, Jones International University, Regis University, the University of Denver and University of Phoenix.

**STUDENT BODY:**

The anticipated race/ethnic mix for students in the M.A.T. is expected to be similar to that for current students, which is:

- Native American – 1%
- African American – 3.9%
- Asian/Pacific Islander – 2.2%
- White – 73.6%
- Hispanic – 11%
- International - .4%
- Other – 6.8%
- Missing – 1.1%

Metro adds, "at the undergraduate level we are recruiting a more diverse population of students, which we believe will positively impact the master's program as well."

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

Admission requirements for the proposed M.A.T. are:

1. A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution;
2. A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0;
3. Resume or vita;

4. A one or two page typed statement of interest to be reviewed by a panel of faculty;
5. Passing scores on the appropriate PRAXIS II or PLACE content exam;
6. Completion of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) with a minimum score of 400 on the verbal and quantitative sections or 900 combined;
7. Recommendation from a previous faculty instructor in their major or education faculty from prerequisite courses; and
8. an assessment of the candidates' ability to work with and relate to children and whether or not the candidate has the appropriate professional and personal dispositions to be a teacher.

In regards to transfer students, graduate courses taken at other accredited institutions must be evaluated and approved by the Graduate Coordinator. A maximum of nine semester hours of transfer credit (with grades of "B" or better) may be applied toward a degree program. No courses will be accepted for transfer credit if they are more than six years old at the time of evaluation.

**COURSE OF STUDY:**

The proposed M.A.T. and Special Education Generalist endorsement content have been approved by State Board of Education, at its meeting on February 10, 2010, and also meet all statutory performance criteria for which the Department of Higher Education reviews. The course of study is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Course Plan for Graduate Special Education Generalist

<b>Course Prefix and Title: Prerequisites</b>	<b>Credits</b>
SED 3600 Exceptional Learners in the Classroom	3
<b>Course Prefix and Title: Required Courses</b>	
*SED 5650 Individualized Education and Curriculum	3
*SED 5750 Assessment, Methods & Assistive Technology for Severe Disabilities	3
*SED 5820 Elements of Literacy Instruction for Students with Disabilities	3
*SED 5900 Mathematics Instruction for Students with Disabilities	3
*SED 6050 Assessment and Instructional Planning	3
*SED 6200 Reading Disabilities and Content Instruction	3
*SED 6250 Effective Behavioral Support Systems	3
*SED 6300 Assessment and Methods for Emotional and Behavioral Disorders	3
*SED 6490 Special Education Student Teaching and Seminar	12
**TEM 6100 Educational Research	3
**TEM 6200 Classroom Assessment	3
**TEM 6800 Capstone: Lesson Study for the M.A.T. Degree	1
<b>Select one of the following:</b>	
**TEM 6300 Learning in Context	3
**TEM 6400 Differentiated Instruction and Collaboration	3

<b>Total Credits (Without Prerequisites)</b>	<b>46</b>
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\*Stacked course (cross-listed as an undergraduate and graduate course)

\*\*New course

**ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING, OUTCOMES AND EVALUATION:**

Continuation and exit requirements are:

1. Successfully complete student teaching;
2. Capstone project or comprehensive exam must be completed with a passing grade;
3. Maintain 3.0 GPA each semester, with no more than two grades of "C";
4. Residency requirement (credit hours taken at Metro, not transfer credits) is 37 hours for the Special Education Generalist concentration;
5. Completion of the program in six calendar years from entry term; and
6. If a student stops out of the program for three consecutive semesters (including summer), a re-application must occur before additional coursework can be pursued.

Each class has a major assignment or project for which a grading rubric will be provided to candidates. During student teaching, candidates will complete a work sample project and capstone experience that has extensive grading rubrics. Students are required to post a minimum of four key assessment projects as part of an online portfolio. That data is used to assess course assignments along with summarizing the number of students that meet or exceed standards on required objectives or lack proficiency on those standards. This data will be utilized for national accreditation and state reauthorization purposes.

**FACULTY RESOURCES:**

Program review suggests, ideally, the addition of one new full-time tenure-track position per year in special education over the next five years. Metro anticipates additional grant-writing as a result of hiring new faculty who will teach in the M.A.T. degree and increased scholarly activity of current faculty who will want to include M.A.T. students in their projects.

**FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY:**

According to a recent survey of Metro students and alumni, students would prefer to take graduate courses on the weekends, evenings, during the summer, online and in an accelerated format. Thus, the need for prime-time classroom space is minimal. Courses offered during the day and evenings could be stacked courses, thus using classroom space that is already dedicated. Office space for faculty is at a premium. The need to update technology, such as smart boards, document cameras and current computer technology, will incur ongoing costs. We anticipate an impact on several Student Service areas, including Admissions, Financial Aid and the Registrar, given the additional students these areas will be asked to serve.

**OVERALL BUDGET IMPACT/NEED:**

In Table 2 below, all expenses with the exception of the instructional materials are negotiable. Additional faculty salaries were estimated based on past program review recommendations.

Table 2: Expense Projections

	<b>Estimated Amount in Dollars</b>				
	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>					
Faculty salaries	\$136,880	\$303,260	\$470,534	\$570,280	\$673,017
Professional Development	\$15,000	\$16,500	\$18,000	\$19,500	\$21,000
Program Administration, including non-faculty personnel	\$185,000	\$185,000	\$185,000	\$185,000	\$185,000
Accreditation costs, as applicable	0	0	0	0	0
Instructional Materials	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
Institution Overhead (10% of total revenue projection)	\$58,560	\$67,536	\$78,499	\$90,758	\$104,822
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$395,740</b>	<b>\$572,596</b>	<b>\$752,333</b>	<b>\$865,838</b>	<b>\$984,139</b>

It is anticipated that graduate tuition, non-college opportunity fund (COF) eligible, will provide the college with additional funds. This proposed degree will be cash-funded only and Metro will not ask for additional General Fund support for these FTE. Due to the large number of stacked courses, additional expenses for initial courses will be low. As the program continues to grow and dedicated sections are needed for each course, revenue will have to be generated from tuition. In Table 3 below, Year 1 tuition = \$200/credit hour with a 5% annual tuition increase assumed in each subsequent year.

Table 3: Revenue Projections

	<b>Estimated Amount in Dollars</b>				
	<b>Year 1*</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>
<b>Annual Credit Hour Production</b>	2,928	3,216	3,552	3,912	4,296
<b>Enrollment Revenue:</b>					
Tuition	\$585,600	\$675,360	\$784,992	\$907,584	\$1,048,224
<b>Other Revenue (specify):</b>					
<b>Total Program Revenue</b>	<b>\$585,600</b>	<b>\$675,360</b>	<b>\$784,992</b>	<b>\$907,584</b>	<b>\$1,048,224</b>
<b>Net Revenue (Total Revenue less Expenses)</b>	<b>\$189,860</b>	<b>\$102,764</b>	<b>\$32,659</b>	<b>\$41,746</b>	<b>\$64,085</b>

**FIVE-YEAR EXPECTED TOTAL ENROLLMENT:**

Survey results indicate the proposed M.A.T. may immediately attract approximately 200 students from the post-baccalaureate pool and 125 from the Teacher in Residence /CASEL/Alternative Licensure programs. Thus, the M.A.T. could have very high enrollment. Metro estimates 10% per year as a conservative growth rate.

### **III. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL**

At its meeting on February 10, 2010, the Colorado State Board of Education approved the content of this program proposal. CDE staff transmitted its affirmative recommendation to the department.

### **IV. DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION REVIEW**

The Department staff has reviewed this proposed program and letters of assurances from academic administrators to ensure that the degree program meets the State's performance measures outlined in C.R.S. §23-5-129.6. The program meets all performance measures set forth by the state, including those for teacher preparation in C.R.S. §23-1-121.

### **V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Commission approve the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree submitted by Metropolitan State College of Denver, as well as the college's proposal to offer Special Education Generalist endorsement with this degree.**

### **VI. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Copies of all relevant statute, policy, the proposal and the letter of approval from the State Board of Education are on file in the Academic Affairs Office.

### **VII. STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S. §23-5-129.6  
C.R.S. §23-1-121