

OFFICE OF QUALITY PROFESSIONALS AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
August 16-17, 2012

OFFICE OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE

13. Approval of Proposal by Mississippi State University to Add an Elementary 4-6 Track to its Master of Arts in Teaching Alternate Route Program as Recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development

Background Information:

Mississippi State University is requesting approval to add an Elementary 4-6 Track to its Master of Arts in Teaching Alternate Route Program. This item was approved by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development on July 6, 2012.

The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) is one of the approved alternate route certification programs in our state. This route is a graduate degree program that leads to certification, primarily in secondary core subject areas. Eleven of our state institutions offer an MAT program in secondary 7-12 subject areas, and eight of these institutions already offer an upper elementary track for grades 4-6.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached



EDUCATION PROGRAM APPROVAL REQUEST FORM

Institution: Mississippi State University

Date submitted to TAP: 3/6/2012

Submitted by: Devon Brenner

Commission approval date: _____

Contact phone or email: dgb19@msstate.edu, 662-325-7119

State Board approval date: _____

Proposed date of program implementation/modification:

Proposal request and support materials are provided for approval to implement:

☒ New Program ☐ Modifications to Existing Program ☐ New Licensure Requirement

In addition to your current education program course list/description, you must provide, where applicable:

- 1) a copy of the proposed new program ✓
- 2) the current program with clear indication of proposed modifications N/A
- 3) any evidence of institutions (state, regional or national) with the same or a similar course of study ✓
- 4) qualified faculty and vitae ✓
- 5) syllabi for any new or modified courses within the proposed program ✓
- 6) any other documentation that further supports the proposal ✓

NOTE: Use the spaces below for a brief statement of your proposal request. Additional sheets may be attached that include a formal request and detailed proposal components.

Please state your specific request:

MSU already has the MAT-Secondary. We seek to extend the MAT to middle level education. The MAT-Middle Level would result in 4-6 licensure along with one content area license and meets the MDE requirements for alternate route MAT degrees.

Briefly state your rationale:

There is an ongoing need for MAT/alternate route licensure programs in the state particularly for middle level classrooms. The MATM is funded by a US DOE Transition to Teaching grant and is expected to provide new teachers for rural middle schools across the state. The degree will be an online program and will target schools with teacher shortages. See attached.

NOTE: Program approval is subject to standard review procedures that involve several entities and, therefore, timelines for final approval may vary. After TAP approves the program proposal, it may then be subject to presentation for approval by the Licensure Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development and the State Board of Education before program candidates are eligible for Mississippi Teacher Licensure.

Email this form to Gail Gettis at ggettis@mde.k12.ms.us or fax to 601-359-1728.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/JUSTIFICATION FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING-MIDDLE LEVEL (MAT-M)

In October of 2011, the department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education and the College of Education were awarded a Transition to Teaching Grant from the US Department of Education for the TERMS (Teacher Education for Rural Middle Schools) program. The TERMS Transition to Teaching Grant is funded for \$3.7 million dollars over the next five years. The grant is awarded to allow the College of Education to develop an alternate route degree program to provide new, qualified teachers for middle level (grades 4-8) classrooms in rural Mississippi. Specifically, the TERMS grant will fund the creation of a Master of Arts in Teaching-Middle Level (MAT-M) degree program.

The design of the MAT-M degree program builds on the success of the existing MAT-S (Master of Arts in Teaching-Secondary) that already exists in the department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education. The MAT-S program has been supported by a Transition to Teaching Grant since 2009 and provides an alternate route degree program for secondary education. MAT-M will use the same architecture as the MAT-S but will provide middle level licensure.

Because the TERMS grant was awarded in late October of 2011, we fall outside of the normal time period for developing or modifying degree programs at the IHL. However, because of the need for middle level teachers in rural Mississippi, and because of the success of the current MAT-S program on the MSU campus, we have received permission to move forward with the MAT-M program from the Institutions of Higher Learning and the Mississippi Department of Education, pending university approval. IHL has granted permission for the department to begin offering the MAT-M in the summer of 2012, so that new teachers can begin teaching in the fall of this year.

The TERMS grant will provide scholarships and incentives to many students in the degree program. Students who are employed in any of the 19 TERMS partner districts across the state will receive \$5,000 in scholarships. The partner school districts are those with severe teacher shortages and high number of students living in poverty. Many of these are districts whose staffs include large numbers of Teach for America or Mississippi Teacher Corps teachers. While these individuals may be excellent teachers, they do not possess a permanent teacher license, and they often leave the community and the classroom after their service commitment is completed. It is our belief that these districts will be better served by working with local individuals who already have roots in the communities to prepare qualified teachers for these needy districts.

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Course title	Hours
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/EDS/EDX/EDF/EPY diversity elective selected in consultation with advisor	3
EDE 8153 Professional Roles of the Middle Level Educator	3
EDE 8163 Teaching Middle Level Mathematics Content or EDE 8173 Teaching Middle Level Social Studies or EDE 8183 Teaching Middle Level Science	3
Total Hours	36

The MAT-M will be a completely online degree program, with no requirements to attend courses or experiences on the MSU campus. Students, particularly recipients of the TERMS scholarship, will have an opportunity to participate in summer orientations and workshops on the MSU campus, but these will not be mandatory for completion of the degree program.

The MAT-M will be offered on a cohort model in the following order:

Summer: Completion of these courses allows a student to be recommended for a the three-year temporary teaching license:

- EDE 8113 Middle Level Management and the Young Adolescent
- EDE 8123 Foundations for Teaching Middle Level Mathematics
- RDG 8113 Middle Level Literacy Instruction
- EPY 8473 Middle Level Assessment and Evaluation

School Year: During fall and spring, students will be enrolled in the internship, which is required by MDE for permanent licensure. The internship courses will allow for observation, mentoring, and feedback during the first year of teaching. Each semester, students will enroll in a concurrent course that will focus on assisting and supporting the teacher with practical issues (e.g., adapting instruction for students who struggle, evaluating and research effectiveness of practice)

Fall

EDE 8133 Middle Level Internship I

RDG 8123 Supporting the Middle Level Literacy Learner

Spring

EDE 8143 Middle Level Internship II
EDF 8553 Research in the Classroom

Summer: The final four courses in the program will be taken in the summer after the internship. These courses will allow teachers to reflect on the year of teaching, deepen content area pedagogy skills, and become a more effective middle level teacher. Completion of the degree program will allow the student to be recommended for permanent licensure in grades 4-6 and content area licensure in a single content area for grades 7-8. The final four courses include:

- RDG 8133 Middle Level Content Area Literacy Instruction
- Diversity elective (e.g. EDX 8173 Special Education in the Regular Classroom or EDS 8623 Principles of Effective Instruction, already approved as AOCE courses)
- EDE 8153 Professional Roles of the Middle Level Educator
- A content area methods course consistent with the students' content area licensure (EDE 8163 Teaching Middle Level Mathematics Content or EDE 8173 Teaching Middle Level Social Studies or EDE 8183 Teaching Middle Level Science)