

Master of Arts in Teaching Program Supplemental Content Requirements

Master of Arts in Teaching candidates must have sufficient content understanding to teach effectively. Guidelines for appropriate content are given by the Maryland State Department of Education (COMAR) and by the national professional organizations in each subject matter area. These guidelines have been used to develop Supplemental Content Worksheets for the MAT Program.

In general, most if not all, content requirements are met through undergraduate coursework. The following guidelines are used to determine how content gaps will be addressed. Candidates should discuss their content background with their advisor upon entry to the program. Any content requirements that are identified will become part of the candidate's official program plan, and as such, are considered to be requirements for graduation. All content requirements must be completed prior to graduation from the program. In the FlexMAT and the Montgomery ProMAT options, content requirements must be completed before the internship will be scheduled.

Secondary Candidates

1) If the candidate has an **undergraduate major** in the content area (30-36 credit hours of undergraduate coursework) he/she will submit a **Content Product** for any content gap that is identified on the Supplemental Content Worksheet. These products may include research papers/projects from the Special Topics courses or independent products approved by the advisor in accordance with the departmental list of approved possible products. Teach For America corps members may submit products supported by the Content Learning Teams according to departmental guidelines.

2) If the candidate has an undergraduate **major in a related subject area** (e.g., theater or journalism for English; economics for mathematics) he/she will take additional coursework for the content gaps noted, with some supplemental products being allowed at the discretion of the advisor in accordance with the departmental list of approved possible products.

Elementary Candidates

1) Following the Supplemental Content Requirements Worksheet for Elementary, the advisor will work with the candidate to determine content gaps. If the candidate has had the required number of course credits in a particular area (9 credits of English, for example) but is missing a particular requirement (e.g., literature), he/she will be required to submit a supplemental content product or 3 credits of Special Topics.

2) If the candidate does not have the required number of credits in a content area, he/she will be required to take an additional course. Some supplemental content products may be accepted in lieu of coursework at the discretion of the advisor in keeping with departmental guidelines. A Special Topics class may count for this requirement.

CLEP Examinations

With advisor approval, candidates may submit passing scores on CLEP examinations to meet supplemental content requirement needs.

Receiving Credit

To meet graduation requirements, the candidate must provide his/her advisor with an official transcript from the institution where he/she has taken additional courses or an official report of a CLEP examination.

To receive credit for a supplemental product, the candidate is responsible for presenting the product to his/her advisor for approval. A copy of the product will be kept in the candidate's file.

If a candidate completes a content need as part of the Special Topics course, he/she is responsible for having the instructor complete a Course Equivalency Form. This form, along with a copy of the graded product must be submitted to the advisor. The advisor will indicate that the content requirement has been met on the candidate's program plan and place the copy and the form in the candidate's file.

Effective date: January 1, 2004