

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, INTERDISCIPLINARY - TEACHER RESIDENCY (MAT)

This program was approved for students entering the university in the Summer 2026-Spring 2027 catalog year. For more information about catalog year, go to Catalog Year Information (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/university-wide-unit-specific-policies/catalog-year/>).

Master of Arts in Teaching in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education, Teacher Residency

Unit: College of Education and Human Development (<https://education.louisville.edu/>)

Department: Special Education, Early Childhood and Prevention Science (<https://education.louisville.edu/academic-programs/academic-departments/special-education-early-childhood-prevention-science-secp>)
Program Website (<https://louisville.edu/programs/early-childhood-education-interdisciplinary-teacher-residency-mat>)
Academic Plan Code(s): IECEMAT

Program Information

The program emphasizes in-depth academic preparation and field experiences that allow teachers to be knowledgeable about the field of early childhood/special education and to develop critical thinking and lifelong learning skills. The program emphasizes:

- Nurturing students as active agents in their own learning
- Authentic, performance-based assessment of teaching and learning
- Meeting the needs of all students
- Responding constructively to socio-cultural differences among students

The program prepares students interested in working with children from birth to age 5 in a wide variety of settings - day care centers, public and private preschools, community programs, and clinics. This program gives students authentic experiences with infants, toddlers, and preschool children in the areas of curriculum development, typical and atypical child development, programs and services for children and their families, family involvement and intervention, screening and assessment, program administration, current topics, and practicum/action research.

The Teacher Residency program is designed to assist local school districts in meeting the demand for a diverse cadre of qualified teachers. Residents are enrolled in a one-year MAT program at the University of Louisville while employed with JCPS as a resident. Candidates receive personalized instruction throughout the process to help them succeed in the classroom. Candidates selected for the Louisville Teacher Residency (LTR) program commit to teach in accelerated improvement schools (AIS) for five years.

Although this program has determined that it meets educational requirements for licensure in other US states and jurisdictions, this program is designed specifically to align with Kentucky certification requirements for the supervised student teaching or culminating clinical experience. Therefore, students in this program are required to complete their student teaching or clinical experience at an approved placement

location in the state of Kentucky. Please contact the program director to discuss possible arrangements to complete culminating experiences in Southern Indiana before enrolling in the program.

Application Requirements

Candidates considering an application to the MAT program should contact the MAT pre-admissions counselor (teacher@louisville.edu (<http://louisville.edu/cgi-bin/uofl.mail?teacher>)) **prior** to applying for admission. A transcript evaluation must be completed before a candidate can be considered for admission.

- Completed **UofL graduate application** submitted at <https://apply.graduate.louisville.edu/apply/>
- **Official transcripts** for all undergraduate and graduate coursework. To be considered official, transcripts must be sent by the issuing institution to the UofL Graduate School. Transcripts issued to the candidate, and/or uploaded by the candidate, are considered unofficial.
 - International transcripts must be evaluated per UofL Graduate School requirements: <https://graduate.louisville.edu/admission/international/evaluation>
- **Personal statement** – Candidates should upload **two essays** in response to the prompts below. The essays should be included in one document. Each essay should be double-spaced (Times New Roman 12 point font) with no more than three pages per essay.
 - **Essay 1:** In consideration of the characteristics of an effective teacher, the ability to collaborate, and to support student collaboration in the classroom, is essential. Please self-evaluate this important skill and indicate whether you consider this as a strength or weakness. If you consider it as a weakness, please explain how you might further develop this skill. Also, please explain how you might encourage collaboration in your future classroom.
 - **Essay 2:** In what ways have your life experiences shaped the way you learn, and how you interact with others with different life experiences? Additionally, explain how you would support the ideal of "respect for all learners" in your future classroom.
- **Current resume**
- **Recommendations** – Three (3) recommendations are required. Requests are automatically sent to the recommenders' emails once the graduate application is submitted. Adequate time should be given for recommenders to respond to the request by the application deadline. Candidates may log into their admission portal to check the status of the recommendations.
 - **Work with Children and/or Adolescents Recommendation#-** This recommendation should be completed by an individual who has observed the candidate's work/engagement with children and/or adolescents. The recommender should address the candidate's ability to relate to and work with children/adolescents, as well as his/her ability to organize, lead and direct activities. The faculty screening committee wants to see evidence that candidates have engaged with the age group he/she intends to teach, and that a professional (such as a teacher or school administrator, scout leader, community organization director, etc.) confirms the candidate's potential for success in the teacher education program.
 - **Professional/Community Recommendation#-** This recommendation should be completed by an individual who can address the candidate's character and professional qualities (punctuality, communication, leadership, work ethic, etc.).

Pastors, P-12 teachers, supervisors/employers, and community organization directors are a few examples of appropriate recommenders.

- **Faculty Recommendation#**- This recommendation should be completed by a faculty member at the college level. The faculty member should address the candidate's academic skills and potential to succeed in a graduate program including: critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration. College graduates who have been away from higher education more than five years may have difficulty obtaining a faculty recommendation. Candidates who will not be enrolling in prerequisite courses prior to the MAT program, may choose to submit a Professional/Community Recommendation instead. Two Professional/Community Recommendations would then be required.
- Signed documents included in the application. You will be asked to review and sign the Statement of Understanding of Admissions Guidelines (<https://louisville.widen.net/s/gwtrfxjllf/statement-of-understanding-of-admissions-guidelines>) and the Professional Code of Ethics/Technology User Agreement (<https://louisville.widen.net/s/vr6gdwqdtx/cehd-acceptable-use-of-technology-agreement>).

International Applicants:

- International applicants must submit additional application items, and meet additional admission requirements. Information on the international application and admission requirements can be found here: <https://graduate.louisville.edu/admission/international>

Admission Requirements

- **Complete application** (including all checklist items above and payment submitted).
- **Bachelor's degree** from an accredited institution. Candidates enrolled in the final semester of their bachelor's degree can be reviewed for provisional admission - pending a final, degree transcript.
- **Minimum grade point average** (GPA) of 2.75. Candidates with a GPA lower than 2.75 should consult with the pre-admissions counselor to discuss state certification requirements and potential options.
- **Prerequisite course requirements.** Candidates must have a transcript evaluation completed by the pre-admissions counselor (teacher@louisville.edu) prior to applying for admission. The following courses are required: Written Communication and Oral Communication with a grade of "C" or higher.
- **Interview** with the admissions screening committee including representatives from the school district. Candidates should be prepared to discuss their qualifications for admission and should project a professional image. Candidates are encouraged to prepare for the interview by reflecting on the domains in the professional dispositions rubric (<https://louisville.widen.net/s/9ldf6f9qx8/cehd-professional-disposition-rubric>).

Admission is competitive. Meeting the GPA minimum and all other admission requirements does not guarantee that prospective students will be accepted into the program.

Program admission dates: Summer semester only

(Priority) Application Deadlines: April 15 for Summer

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
EDTP 651	Comprehensive Teaching and Learning I	3
EDTP 652	Comprehensive Teaching and Learning II	3
EDSP 536	Theories of Play	3
EDSP 533	Inclusive Early Childhood Curriculum	3
EDSP 537	Infant/Toddler Instruction and Care	3
EDTP 654	Support and Mentoring I	1.5
<i>Mid-Point Assessment (see requirements below)</i>		
EDSP 583	Early Childhood Special Education Assessment	3
EDTP 653	Comprehensive Teaching and Learning III	3
EDTP 655	Support and Mentoring II	1.5
EDAP 677	Developing Collaborative Groups: Facilitating, Coaching and Mentoring	3
EDSP 584	Families and Collaboration in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education	3
Minimum Total Hours		30

Mid-Point Assessment: Successful completion of EDTP 651, EDTP 652 and EDTP 654; 3.0 cumulative GPA with no grade lower than "C" in each course (C- does not count); all prerequisites met; satisfactory performance on all Hallmark Assessment Tasks; Target performance on all rubrics; Electronic documentation of 200 hours of approved field experiences.

Exit Assessment: All program course work with 3.0 cumulative GPA - and no more than a total of two C's; satisfactory dispositions assessment; satisfactory performance on all Hallmark Assessment Tasks; Target performance on all rubrics.

Certification Assessment: Successful completion of degree and certification course work and all requirements as above. Passing PRAXIS content and PLT exam scores. Teacher certification requirements are subject to change. Before registering for exams, please check for current requirements at praxis.ets.org/state-requirements/Kentucky-tests.html (<https://praxis.ets.org/state-requirements/kentucky-tests.html>).

Degree Candidacy: Students not enrolled during the semester in which they intend to graduate must register for degree candidacy as outlined in the Graduate Catalog (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/graduate/general-policies-procedures-requirements/#text>).

The Master of Arts in Teaching in Interdisciplinary Early Education (IECEMAT) prepares students to meet the requirements for certification and/or licensure. If you plan to pursue professional licensure or certification you should first determine your state's criteria for examination and licensure to see how/if our program meets those requirements prior to enrollment. We recommend that you also contact your state's licensing board directly to verify that the requirements have not changed recently and to answer any questions especially those regarding additional requirements beyond the degree.

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More information about certification or licensure is available at the following website: <https://louisville.edu/about/departments/academic-planning-accountability/disclosures/professional-licensure>.

For programs with an online option, more information about certification or licensure is available here:
<https://online.louisville.edu/resources/compliance/license>.