

# 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 & Fees	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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### 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 each year. 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, one to 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 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, mid-June-July. The final fall semester includes a 12-week, full-day student teaching internship and 2 additional classes.

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 39 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 5 times during the student teaching semester.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS – 3 STEPS**

### **Step 1: Transcript Review and Interview**

Schedule a meeting with Dr. Holly Pence (program coordinator 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\*.

Contact info:

E-mail (preferred): [pencehm@jmu.edu](mailto:pencehm@jmu.edu), Tele. number: (540) 568-8753

Office: 3210- D 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.  
Contact Jenny Litwiller at [careerservices@emu.edu](mailto:careerservices@emu.edu) or (540)432-4131

<http://pearsonassess.com/haiweb/Cultures/en-US/site/Community/PostSecondary/Products/MAT/mathome.htm>

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

**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**, your status can be upgraded 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 I & II scores. These must be met before registering for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of classes or beyond 12 credit hours. Complete the “graduate status upgrade 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 [www.jmu.edu/coe/esc/](http://www.jmu.edu/coe/esc/)

**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 GPSY 160 and EDUC 300, content prerequisites or courses within the program.

Unconditional acceptance into Teacher Education for the ECED MAT program requires both Praxis I (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.

1. Complete the online application form <http://www.jmu.edu/coe/admissions/application.shtml> Print it and bring it to me for my signature or mail to Dr. Holly Pence, JMU, MSC 6909, Harrisonburg, VA 22807. I will forward your signed form to the Education Support Center.

2. Within a few weeks you will receive a packet including reference forms that must be completed and returned to the Education Support Center. If you do not receive this packet, you may need to call the Educational Support Center (568-6274) to request it, or stop by to pick it up at their office.

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.

NOTE: The application will request a 200 word response to "Why I want to become a teacher?" You may use the same essay or a portion of the essay you used to apply to graduate school.

**Praxis I PPST – 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 I. ACT composite scores of 24, Math-22, Plus Reading-46 will also exempt Praxis I.

Passing score for Praxis I is 532. Minimum scores are: Read 176, Writ 176, Math 178.

**Praxis II – Code 0014 NOTE TEST CODE number!** JMU requires the same test for early and elementary education students. The minimum score in Virginia is 143.

For PRAXIS testing dates and times see: [www.ets.org](http://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 “Special Student.” <http://www.jmu.edu/grad/> This exception applies to part time students only.

### To register for classes:

1. Go to <https://ecampus.jmu.edu/servlets/iclientservlet/ecampus/?cmd=login>
2. Sign in at **E-campus** 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:

- GPSY 160: Human Development Across the Life Span - may be taken at Community College and transferred to JMU
- EDUC 300: Foundations of Education (Call Sandy Gilchrest for overrides- 568-2291 or [glichrse@jmu.edu](mailto:glichrse@jmu.edu)) Must be taken at a 4 year institution.
- Specific content courses as determined by a review of your transcript  
For overrides into Math 107 or 108 at JMU, first contact your advisor (Holly Pence) and then Secretary of Math Dept. (Brenda Wilkinson) at 568-6408 [wilkinbs@jmu.edu](mailto:wilkinbs@jmu.edu)

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 <sup>nd</sup> 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		
	12 credits	12 credits	6 credits	9 credits

## 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 Prerequisite – GPSYC 160
ECED 511 (3) F	ECED Practicum with Attention to Diversity
ECED 609 (3) F	Constructivist Curriculum
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 Prerequisite – ECED 511
ECED 512 (3) S	Facilitating Children’s Natural and Soc. Science
READ 636 (3) S	Primary Grades Literacy Learning Prerequisite – READ 566
ECED 510 (3) SU	Creativity and the Arts in ECED
ELED 632 (3) SU	Inquiry in Elementary Education Prerequisite – ECED 609
ECED 641 (2) F	Schools and Families in ECED Co-requisite ECED 690
ELED 633 (1) F	Seminar in Education Inquiry Co-requisite - ECED 690
ECED 690 (6) F	Student Teaching Internship in ECED
	Prerequisites – 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 – (Jan.-Feb. for following Fall) For more information and to apply, click on the following link:

[http://www.jmu.edu/grad/current\\_students/assistantships.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/grad/current_students/assistantships.shtml)

## Testing & Fee Requirements for the ECED MAT (effective 7/11)

Test/Fee	Recommended Timeline	Deadline	How to register	Cost
GRE OR Miller Analogy Test	Fall/spring for following Fall acceptance	Required for application to graduate school	See page 3	GRE \$160.00 M.A.T. \$60.00
Application Fee to Graduate School	Fall/spring for following Fall acceptance	Required for application to graduate school	See page 3	\$50
Application to Teacher Education TK20	Following acceptance into Graduate Program	Prior to fulltime registration of fall semester classes	See page 4 <a href="http://coe.jmu.edu/esc">http://coe.jmu.edu/esc</a>	\$100
Praxis I or SAT I waiver *  Passing Score: 532	Before starting the program	Passing scores must be received before registering beyond 12 credit hours and to be unconditionally accepted into the MAT program	<a href="http://www.ets.org">http://www.ets.org</a> Register for <b>Reading</b> (0710 or 5710), <b>Math</b> (0730 or 5730) and <b>Writing</b> (0720 or 5720) –  Can take all 3 in the same morning	Paper-based (PPST) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$50 annual registration</li> <li>• \$80 for each test or..</li> <li>• \$130 combined</li> </ul>
Praxis II Code # 0014 Passing Score: 143	Before you begin the program	<b>Before</b> registering for 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester classes and to be unconditionally accepted into the MAT program	<a href="http://www.ets.org">www.ets.org</a> Register for test code 0014	\$80
VCLA Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment	Spring – during second semester	<b>Before</b> graduation  Required for licensure	<a href="http://www.vra.nesinc.com">http://www.vra.nesinc.com</a> Register for both reading 091 and writing 092 subtests	\$110
VRA Virginia Reading Assessment	After READ 636 or end of spring sem.	<b>Before</b> graduation  Required for licensure	<a href="http://www.vra.nesinc.com">http://www.vra.nesinc.com</a> Register for the Elementary and Special Education (Test code 01)	\$105
Graduation Fee	September 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fall			\$50
Licensing Fee	At end of student teaching			\$50 – in-state \$75- out-of-state

\* Qualifying scores for Praxis I 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 I.

(JMU alumni only) Access to SAT/ACT scores. Go to *ecampus*, 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.

<b>Important Dates:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application to Student Teaching – Complete during first fall semester (October) for the following fall student teaching. See Education Support Center <a href="http://www.jmu.edu/coe/esc/student_teaching/">http://www.jmu.edu/coe/esc/student_teaching/</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application to Graduate – See dates on Graduate School website (Oct. for Dec. graduation)</li> </ul>

### Contact & Location Information (Tel. area code – 540) [www.jmu.edu](http://www.jmu.edu)

<b>Dr. Holly Pence,</b> Program Coordinator	Memorial Hall, Room 3210-D	568-8753	<a href="mailto:pencehm@jmu.edu">pencehm@jmu.edu</a>
Mrs. Juanita Swartz, Dept. Secr.	Mem. Hall 3100 Dept Secretary	568-6255	<a href="mailto:swartzjm@jmu.edu">swartzjm@jmu.edu</a>
<b>Education Support Center</b>	Mem. Hall, 7230 Teacher Edu	568-6274	<a href="http://www.jmu.edu/coe/esc/">http://www.jmu.edu/coe/esc/</a>
JMU College of Edu	Memorial Hall 395 S.High Street	568-2812	<a href="http://welcome.coe.jmu.edu/">http://welcome.coe.jmu.edu/</a>
<b>Graduate School</b>	17 West Grace Street	568-6169 568-6131	<a href="http://www.jmu.edu/grad/">http://www.jmu.edu/grad/</a>
Outreach Program (for special students)	Memorial Hall	568-4253	<a href="http://www.jmu.edu/outreach/index.shtml">http://www.jmu.edu/outreach/index.shtml</a>
JMU Registration	Warren Campus Ctr, Rm 300	568-3737	<a href="http://www.jmu.edu/registrar/handbook.shtml">http://www.jmu.edu/registrar/handbook.shtml</a>
Financial Aid	Warren Hall, Room 302A	568-7820	<a href="http://www.jmu.edu/finaid/800X600/index.html">http://www.jmu.edu/finaid/800X600/index.html</a> <a href="http://www.jmu.edu/finaid">http://www.jmu.edu/finaid</a>
Parking Services	At Parking Deck 381 Bluestone Dr.	568-3300	<a href="http://web.jmu.edu/parking/">http://web.jmu.edu/parking/</a>

### Professional organizations & contacts:

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

Area school divisions

- Harrisonburg City – [www.harrisonburg.k12.va.us](http://www.harrisonburg.k12.va.us)

- Rockingham County – [www.rockingham.k12.va.us](http://www.rockingham.k12.va.us)
- Augusta County – [www.augusta.k12.va.us](http://www.augusta.k12.va.us)
- Waynesboro City – [www.waynesboro.k12.va.us](http://www.waynesboro.k12.va.us)
- Staunton City – [www.staunton.k12.va.us](http://www.staunton.k12.va.us)
- Shenandoah County – [www.shenandoah.k12.va.us](http://www.shenandoah.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 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. Teaching and Learning***

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. Connecting with children and families**

Candidates know, understand, and use positive relationships and supportive interactions as the foundation for their work with young children.

#### **Sub-Standard 4b. Using developmentally effective approaches**

Candidates know, understand, and use a wide array of effective approaches, strategies, and tools to positively influence children’s development and learning.

#### **Sub-Standard 4c. Understanding content knowledge in early education**

Candidates understand the importance of each content area in young children’s learning. They know the essential concepts, inquiry tools, and structure of content areas including academic subjects and can identify resources to deepen their understanding.

#### **Sub-Standard 4d. Building 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 5. 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.