The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) with a discipline in Biology is a 45 credit program designed specifically for college graduates holding an appropriate liberal arts degree in Biology who have not had formal background in education and who wish to prepare for a teaching career in adolescence education grades 7-12.

Upon successful completion of the program, candidates will be recommended to the New York State Education Department for Initial/Professional Certification.

Admission Requirements

The basic requirements for admission to a graduate program are

- a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution with a major GPA of a 3.0 or better
- 1 copy of all official transcripts (including transfer schools)
- 3 letters of recommendation
- a graduate admission essay
- satisfactory GRE scores

For the MAT program, the applicant’s undergraduate major must be comparable in breadth, depth and rigor to the New Paltz undergraduate major in the same field, including:

- 6 credits in a foreign language at a beginning level or 3 credits at an intermediate or advanced level. American Sign Language (ASL) is considered a language other than English.
- Undergraduate course work that includes two English composition courses or their equivalent, each with a grade of at least B.
Application Procedures

Students may select to apply online or via paper application. Review of applications for the fall semester begin March 1st. Review of applications for the spring semester will begin October 1st. Late applications may be considered; however, applicants should contact the graduate coordinator before submitting their application.

To apply, submit the following items to the Graduate School in ONE COMPLETE PACKET:

1. A signed application (paper applications) or a signature page (online applications)
2. All undergraduate transcripts, including schools with transfer credits in sealed envelopes
3. One essay stating intent and objective of your graduate studies
4. Three letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes
5. Satisfactory GRE scores

If you have questions about the application process or the programs offered, please contact the Graduate School at (845) 257-3947 or gradschool@newpaltz.edu.

Program Requirements

1. File a “plan of study” during the first semester after matriculation.
2. Complete prescribed course work and other requirements within five years after matriculation.
3. Remedy any deficiencies in the candidate’s undergraduate preparation in the subject area by early advisement with the Secondary Education advisor.
4. Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better, with no more than two grades below B-
5. Student teaching with seminar (13 undergraduate credits).

Curriculum Requirements / 45 Credits

First Semester: 14 credits

SED540 Graduate Foundations Seminar (1)
EDS539 Social Foundations (3)
EDS730 Adolescent Development (3)
XXXXXX Course in Discipline (3)
SED703 Curriculum: Designs for Literacy, Learning & Assessment (3)
SED551 Field Work Level 1 (1)

Second Semester: 17 credits
SPE565  Teaching in Inclusive Classrooms (3)
XXXXX  Course in Discipline (3)
SED525  Digital Literacies & Learning in Secondary Education (1)
SEDXXX  Discipline-Specific Methods Course (3)
SED552  Field Work Level 2 (1)
SEDXXX  Discipline-Specific Education Course (3)¹
XXXXXX  Course in Discipline OR alternative approved by advisor (3) ²

Third Semester:  Student Teaching 14 credits

SED553  Field Experience 3 (1)
SED404  Student Teaching 7-9 (6)
SED405  Student Teaching 10-12 (6)
SED406  Student Teaching Seminar (1)

Notes:

¹ Discipline-specific education coursework combines content and content-specific pedagogical methods.

For course descriptions, please click COURSES.

Additional Requirements:

- Culminating assessments are required (e.g., comprehensive examination, teaching portfolio, thesis)
- Students must attend two state-mandated workshops: 1. Recognizing and reporting symptoms of child abuse 2. Prevention of school violence (SAVE). 3. Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) training. These workshops can be taken at SUNY New Paltz campus. Students must obtain fingerprint clearance. Information packets can be collected in the office of the Department of Secondary Education in OMB 323.
- Students must have good moral character. Applicants for certification are asked to provide information about past convictions, misconduct, etc., on the application for a certificate, and the New York State Education Department is authorized to investigate complaints regarding an applicant’s past convictions or any acts which raise a reasonable question as to the individual’s moral character.
- Students must receive satisfactory scores on the New York State Teacher Certification Examinations. More information on these tests may be obtained at http://www.nystce.nesinc.com.
Students are responsible for their own transportation to field and student teaching placements and must be prepared to commute up to 45 miles, one way, to these placements.

Upon graduation, students will receive the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree. Students will have completed all academic requirements for both initial and professional certification and will be recommended for both certifications. Students will receive their professional certificate after they have completed three years of satisfactory secondary teaching experience in their discipline and notification of such to the State Education Department.

For information on obtaining a teaching credential in New York State, please visit the New York State Education Department web site at http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/.