

# MAT FAQs

## What is the MAT?

The MAT is the Master of Arts in Teaching degree offered at the University of Houston-Downtown. It is a graduate program designed to support degreed and certified teachers as well as graduate students seeking teacher certification. The courses in this program are taught in face-to-face, online, and hybrid formats.

## What is required when applying to UHD's MAT program?

Admission Requirements
1. Minimum GPA of 2.5
2. All official transcripts including the one which depicts an earned baccalaureate degree from an accredited university and any graduate credit earned
3. Graduate Records Exam (GRE) if GPA < 3.0 or if undergraduate degree > 10 years old; minimum scores of 150 each for quantitative and verbal sections; analytical writing score 4 or higher
4. Three professional letters of recommendation
5. Personal statement on how you believe your educational & professional background will contribute to your success in this program; 700 word minimum
6. Submit application and supporting materials via <a href="http://www.applytexas.org">www.applytexas.org</a> or to Mr. Reubenjack Long, UHD Graduate Admissions, <a href="mailto:longr@uhd.edu">longr@uhd.edu</a> or 713-223-7935
7. Admissions interview
8. Applicants seeking teaching certification must submit passing scores for TExES Pre-Admission Content Test (PACT) see <a href="http://cms.texas-ets.org/epp/epppact/">http://cms.texas-ets.org/epp/epppact/</a>
9. Applicants for MAT with certification must complete the <a href="#">Application for Teacher Candidacy</a> following completion of <i>applytexas</i> application
10. Applicants whose baccalaureate degree was conferred by a university not located in the U.S. and/or not primarily characterized by English usage must demonstrate English proficiency by taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam. The following minimum scores are required on each of the subscales: 24 for speaking, 22 for listening, and 21 for writing. A TOEFL waiver is granted for students who have earned a B or better in Composition I & II taken at a U.S. college or university.

## Where can I get an application for the MAT program?

The application is available at ApplyTexas

[https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/gen/c\\_start.WBX](https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/gen/c_start.WBX). For more information on the admission process please contact:

University of Houston-Downtown Graduate Admissions  
One Main Street, Suite N325

Houston, TX 77002  
Telephone: 713-221-8093  
Fax: 713-221-8658

**When is the application due?**

**Application Deadlines**

Master of Arts in Teaching: Curriculum and Instruction	
Fall	Spring
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	November 15th

\*Application Deadlines for History Education are August 5<sup>th</sup> for Fall and January 10<sup>th</sup> for Spring.

Master of Arts in Teaching with Teacher Certification
Fall Admission Only
July 15th

**Do I need teaching experience to be successful in the MAT in Curriculum & Instruction?**

Not at this time, however one or more years of teaching experience will greatly enhance your learning experience in this program.

**Do I need to be an active teacher of record to participate in the MAT in Curriculum & Instruction?**

No, you do not have to be currently employed as a teacher of record. However, that experience is highly recommended.

**Is it possible to work on teacher certification while I take graduate courses?**

Yes, the Master of Arts in Teaching with Teacher Certification provides the necessary training for degreed students to pursue initial teacher certification. You'll have the option to choose between Core Subjects (Early Childhood [EC]-6), Core Subjects (4-8), and Secondary Education (7-12) as part of the MAT program.

**May I enroll in the MAT program if I do not have an undergraduate degree?**

No. However, you may apply if you plan to graduate prior to the beginning of classes for the MAT. The admissions decision will be contingent upon completion of the baccalaureate degree and upon review of your grades for your last semester. There is usually a delay in the admissions decision pending the posting of grades and undergraduate degree.

**Will I have to take prerequisite classes before taking graduate courses?**

No, but within the graduate degree itself, there are some courses that have prerequisites that must be met before enrolling in other courses. These appear on the degree plans and in the catalog.

### **Where can I find out what courses are required for each degree?**

All the degree requirements for each program and specialization may be found on the website at <https://www.uhd.edu/academics/public-service/urban-education/Pages/urbaned-graduate.aspx>. Please refer to the UHD Graduate Catalog at <http://catalog.uhd.edu/index.php> for detailed course descriptions and current academic policies.

### **What if I am declined admission?**

If you are not accepted into the program, consider re-taking the GRE, re-writing your personal statement, and/or taking six hours of post-baccalaureate (PB) courses as suggested. You should contact Graduate Admissions and re-apply to the program the following semester or the following year after making improvements to your application.

### **What if I do not meet the deadline for admission and want to begin coursework?**

You may apply to UHD as a post-baccalaureate (PB) student. Then you should contact the Assistant Director, Graduate Studies, to determine the courses in which to enroll (max six hrs). Financial Aid is usually not available to non-degree PB students.

### **How do I decide which courses to take and when to take them?**

Course offerings and course rotations are found in the Graduate Handbook and on each student's degree plan. The degree plan is typically obtained early in the first semester from the Assistant Director, Graduate Studies, or MAT Graduate Program Director. It offers the best suggestion for a sequence of courses in order to be able to complete your degree in consecutive semesters and as quickly as possible. Students must complete the degree within 6 years of enrolling in the program. Please note that many courses are offered just once a year or during alternate years, so following the course rotations is critical for completing a degree in a timely manner.

### **How many hours are in the MAT program?**

The MAT program is 36 hours. Most students complete the program in two to three years.

### **Will I be able to get Principal certification with the MAT degree?**

No, the MAT does not offer principal certification. Rather, it is focused on advancing the curricular, instructional, and assessment knowledge and skills of current classroom teachers.

### **For what positions does the MAT in Curriculum and Instruction prepare me?**

The MAT will prepare graduate students to be highly qualified experts in their subject areas, potentially leading to more leadership opportunities as curriculum experts.

### **How can I apply for the Cain Scholarship?**

All applicants to the MAT program are considered for the Cain Scholarship by virtue of their application for admission. This scholarship is merit-based, and decisions are made during the registration process for each graduate student. The scholarship does not cover coursework earned prior to being awarded the scholarship. For details see [https://www.uhd.edu/academics/public-service/urban-education/Pages/gordon\\_mary\\_cain\\_graduate\\_scholarship\\_application.aspx](https://www.uhd.edu/academics/public-service/urban-education/Pages/gordon_mary_cain_graduate_scholarship_application.aspx) . Following the first semester, students are encouraged to apply for this scholarship repeatedly.

### **Will I be able to transfer graduate courses from another institution?**

Yes, you may transfer up to six hours of graduate credit from another accredited institution if the courses have been taken within the last five years and are comparable to the MAT courses. The MAT Graduate Program Director has ultimate authority to approve transfer credit prior to and during the program.

### **How do I request to transfer hours?**

Requests for transfer credit must be submitted in writing to the MAT Graduate Program Director and Assistant Director, Graduate Studies. A copy of the course description from the catalog of the institution from which the course was taken must be submitted with the request. In some cases, a copy of the syllabi used will be requested. The MAT Graduate Program Director has ultimate authority to approve transfer credit prior to and during the program. Please allow at least five business days to receive a response to your request.

### **Will I be required to write a thesis?**

No, a thesis is not a requirement of the MAT program; however, it is an option for your capstone project. Students are required to develop, test, produce, and present a project based in extensive research that may be created in the choice of forms, such as: a grant proposal, a journal paper/publication, an outline and empirical study, or software development. Students should discuss these options with a faculty mentor.

### **What are the costs associated with the program?**

See graduate tuition and fee information at <https://www.uhd.edu/student-resources/cashiers/Pages/cashiers-tuition-fees.aspx> and a tuition and fee schedule at <https://www.uhd.edu/student-resources/cashiers/Pages/cashiers-grad-tuition2018.aspx>

### **Where can I find financial aid and scholarship information?**

Financial Aid and scholarship information is found at <https://www.uhd.edu/financial/Pages/financial-index-2.aspx>. Scholarships specific to Urban Education students may also be found at <https://www.uhd.edu/academics/public-service/urban-education/Pages/urbaned-scholarships.aspx>.

### **Where can I find information and register to take the PACT exam?**

The PACT exam is offered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS); see <http://cms.texas-ets.org/epp/epppact/>

**What PACT test do I take?**

Passing score(s) on appropriate [TExES Pre-Admission Content Test \(PACT\)](#)

Certification Areas	TExES/PACT Test Number
Bilingual Education Supplemental	Test 164
EC-6 Core Subjects (with ESL Supplemental)	Test 291
EC-6 Core Subjects (with Bilingual Supplemental)	Test 291 & Test 190
English as a Second Language Supplemental	Test 154
4-8 Core Subjects (with ESL Supplemental)	Test 211
Technology Applications EC-12	Test 242 or 142
7-12 Secondary (Choose one area)	English Language Arts & Reading: Test 231
	History: Test 233
	Life Science: Test 238
	Mathematics: Test 235
	Physical Science: Test 237
	Science: Test 236
	Social Studies: Test 232

EC = Early Childhood