The Dual Certification MAT Program
Focus on Inclusive iSTEM Education

Frequently Asked Questions

Program

What is iSTEM education?
Integrative STEM (iSTEM) education is a standards-based metadiscipline in which all teachers, especially Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (the “STEM” in iSTEM) teachers, use an integrated, inquiry-oriented approach to teaching and learning. iSTEM teaching and learning are grounded in authentic content and problems, using hands-on, technological tools, equipment, and procedures in innovative ways to address human wants and needs. iSTEM education uses inquiry-based, peer led, and project-based learning to build students’ understanding of the impact Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math have on their world as they prepare to compete in the global workforce.

What is different about the Dual Certification MAT Program with a focus on Inclusive iSTEM Education?

- Dual certification in middle and secondary content area and special education
- iSTEM education expertise with field- based clinical practice
- Focus on inquiry and increased rigor
- Emphasis on innovative and research-based best practices, especially UDL, RtI, and Differentiated Instruction
- Traditional and non-traditional field experiences that are carefully supervised and integrated with coursework
- Carefully selected cooperating teachers, mentors, and supervisors who work cooperatively with MSU faculty and staff

When does the program begin?

Students are admitted in the Spring for Fall enrollment. If admitted, students are eligible for summer courses and should consult the program advisor, Susan Hagen, regarding summer registration: hagens@mail.montclair.edu.

How long is the program?

Time to degree is variable depending on the number of content area credits candidates need to complete. Typically, part time students complete the 48-credit program within two to three years. The maximum time limit for students to complete a graduate program is six years.

What kinds of classes will I take?

Program classes include content area coursework; foundational courses in educational theory and philosophy; inclusive pedagogy in middle/secondary classrooms; materials, methods, and technology for iSTEM education,
collaboration and coteaching; and classroom inquiry. Action Research is embedded within the program coursework. Students accumulate products throughout the program that result in a culminating Portfolio.

Will I do fieldwork and student teaching?

A series of intensive, well-supervised field experiences are embedded into the program and take place in both traditional and nontraditional settings.

What kind of support will I have throughout the program?

Upon entry into the program, each student is assigned two program advisors, one from the Department of Curriculum and Teaching and another from the Content Area department. The program advisors provide assistance regarding courses, field experiences, and other program requirements. All fieldwork and student teaching experiences are supported by collaborative mentoring and induction teams.

❖ **Degree and Licensure**

What degree will I receive at the end of this program?

The program is designed to provide graduate students with a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree as well as dual certification: initial certification to teach science or mathematics (P-12) and the Teacher of Students with Disabilities endorsement.

What grades does a subject matter license permit me to teach?

It permits you to teach your subject at any level (P-12).

❖ **Eligibility and Application**

Who is a good candidate for the Dual Certification MAT Program with a focus on Inclusive iSTEM Education?

The Dual Certification MAT program with a focus on Inclusive iSTEM Education admits candidates with backgrounds in Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physical Science, Earth Science and other related areas that demonstrate a commitment to understanding the issues and challenges involved in the research and practice of inclusive iSTEM Education.

What qualifications do I need for this program?

Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree in a related content area with a minimum overall GPA of 2.75. Candidates without a BA in Mathematics, Science, or Engineering are required to take additional courses in Mathematics or Science in order to reach a level of expertise equivalent to that of a MSU major in the content area in which they want to earn their Dual Certification MAT.

In selecting students for the Dual Certification MAT Program with a focus in Inclusive iSTEM Education, Montclair State University uses criteria that are related to the knowledge, skills, and dispositions we expect graduates to possess. In making decisions regarding acceptance, faculty members consider such criteria as GPA, subject area knowledge, commitment to teaching students with and without disabilities and its varied responsibilities, and written and oral communication skills. Please note that a variety of factors are considered when determining admission to the Program and candidates are admitted who demonstrate the best potential in all areas.
Am I required to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test?

Yes. Register at [http://ets.org/gre](http://ets.org/gre). Enter Institution code: 2520 when registering to have your official score report sent to Montclair State University. All candidates are required to send GRE registration confirmation to the program staff via email and send official GRE scores to the Graduate School.

Am I required to take the Praxis in order to be admitted to the program?

You are not required to have taken the Praxis in order to be admitted to the program. Once enrolled, students must follow their content-area program requirements for Praxis completion.

How do I apply for the program?

Visit [www.montclair.edu/graduate](http://www.montclair.edu/graduate) and create an account. Follow the step-by-step directions as prompted in the application. Be sure to select the Dual Certification MAT Program for the Intended Program prompt. Within 24-48 hours of submitting your application, you will be sent an email on how to submit the $60 application fee. If you are not contacted after 48 hours of submitting your application, please contact the Graduate School at 973-655-5147.

Upon completion of the application, all candidates will be asked to complete an online pre-screener assessment. All completed applications are reviewed and selected candidates will be invited for an in-person interview.

How will I know if I have been accepted to the program?

Accepted candidates will receive admission notification by mail. Candidates are required to notify the program of their enrollment intentions by either accepting or declining the invitation to participate in the program.