

Master of Arts (MA)

The Master of Arts in Elementary Education is an online graduate degree that offers three emphasis areas: Reading, Math/Science, and Early Childhood Education. (A fourth emphasis area as an Elementary Math Specialist is not fully online.) The program is designed to help classroom teachers deepen their teaching skills and knowledge in their field of expertise, or expand their background into a new teaching area and/or certification. While this graduate program does not lead to an initial teaching certification, it does offer an advanced Missouri teaching certificate as a Reading Specialist (K – 12) or Math Specialist (1 – 6). The Math/Science and Early Childhood emphasis areas include electives that offer flexibility in tailoring a program to meet graduate students' interests. The graduate program in Elementary Education has 30 credit hours of online course work, making the program convenient for busy classroom teachers.

Southeast Missouri State University is consistently recognized for academic excellence by the U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges Rankings for institutions in the Midwest and is fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. In addition, the College of Education has received national recognition for excellence from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), & Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI). This recognition highlights the College of Education's commitment of providing education of the highest quality and standards to students.

Graduate education at Southeast is guaranteed quality at an affordable price. Southeast offers competitive tuition rates for graduate students, compared to other online graduate programs.

MA in Elementary Education students will...

- Be able to choose an emphasis area of study that meets their career interests and needs
- Get personal attention from a faculty advisor with expertise in the area of study
- Complete course work online and at their own pace
- Complete research relating to issues in their own teaching
- Have the opportunity to earn additional MO teaching certificates as a Reading Specialist or Math Specialist

Career Planning

Graduates of this program may find new teaching opportunities with the increased expertise or certification. Teachers with this Master's degree are often considered leaders in their school setting and may also become curriculum specialists or team leaders. Graduates may also choose to continue their studies beyond the Master's degree for an advanced degree in elementary education, literacy, math, or science education, or early childhood education.

**Internship and Employment
Opportunities of Recent Graduates/
Graduate Schools and Programs of
Recent Graduates**

- Reading Specialist
 - Cape Girardeau School District
 - Jackson School District
 - Mehlville School District
- Literacy Interventionist / Reading Recovery teacher
 - Jefferson City School District
- English Language Arts Instructional Coach
 - Steelville School District

Admission Requirements

1. The applicant must have a valid teaching certificate OR a qualifying score on the state content exam appropriate for that certificate OR be in the 50th percentile verbal and analytic components of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
2. Undergraduate grade point average of 2.75.
3. The program admission process must be completed within one calendar year. Failure to do so will result in reclassification as a non-degree student. Reinstatement to degree-seeking status will require a new application for admission. Courses taken prior to full admission will not necessarily be accepted toward meeting degree requirements.

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This is a guide based on the 2017-2018 Graduate Bulletin and is subject to change. The time it takes to earn a degree will vary based on factors such as dual enrollment, remediation, and summer enrollment. Students meet with an academic advisor each semester and use DegreeWorks to monitor their progress.

CURRICULUM CHECKLIST**ELEMENTARY EDUCATION – 30 Hours – 3.25 GPA Required****Required core courses:**

- CE 614 Family / School Collaboration (3)
OR
- EX 507 Family and Child with Exceptionalities (3)
- EL 615 Research in Action (3)
- EX 601 Educational Assessment (3)
- GR 698 Master's Final Comprehensive Examination (0)

Choose one emphasis area:**Early Childhood Emphasis**

- CE 605 Issues and Trends in Early Childhood Education (3)
- CE 610 Curriculum, Methods, & Program Management in Early Childhood Education (3)
- CE 634 Informal Assessment (3)
- EL 606 Curriculum Construction in a Multicultural Society (3)
- EX 556 Communication Intervention and Strategies for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (3)
OR
- EX602 Language Acquisition for the Exceptional Child (3)
- Electives: 6 hours (Suggested electives related to young children)

Math/Science Emphasis

- EL 603 Teaching Elementary Mathematics (3)
- EL 604 Techniques of Teaching Science in the Elementary School (3)
- EL 608 Diagnosis and Remediation of Difficulties in Learning Mathematics (3)
- EL 606 Curriculum Construction in a Multicultural Society (3)
- Electives: 9 hours (Suggested electives in math/science)

Reading Emphasis

- EL 611 Practicum I: Younger Literacy Learners (3)
- EL 623 Practicum II: Older Literacy Learners (3)
- EL 624 Effective Literacy Leadership (3)
- EL 644 Understanding and Applying the Multi-dimensional processes of Reading (3)
- EL 646 Inquiry & Research Model Used to Improve Reading (3)
- EL 647 Reading Assessment (3)
- SE 602 Effective Literacy Instruction at the Middle and Secondary Level (3)

Math Specialist Emphasis*

- EL 615 Research in Action (3)
- EL 667 Mathematical Leadership for Elementary Mathematics Specialists: Foundations (2)
- EL 668 Mathematical Leadership for Elementary Mathematics Specialists: Influencing and Facilitating Improvement (3)
- EX 601 Educational Assessment (3)
- MD611 Internship in Numbers and Operations (1)
- MD 612 Internship: Rational Numbers and Proportional Thinking (1)
- MD 616 Internship in Geometry and Measurement (1)
- MD 617 Internship in Algebraic Reasoning (1)
- MD 621 Numbers and Operations (3)
- MD 622 Rational Numbers and Proportional Thinking (3)
- MD 624 Data and Probability (3)
- MD 626 Geometry and Measurement (3)
- MD 627 Algebraic Reasoning (3)

*Statewide collaborative program

Recommended sequence of required coursework

Although students may complete this program at their own pace and sequence, these courses do have pre-requisites:

- EL 611 and EL 623 Early and Older Literacy Practicum (pre-requisite – EL 647 Reading Assessment)
- EL 615 Research in Action (pre-requisite - EX 601 Educational Assessment)
- GR 698 Action Research Project (pre-requisite - EL 615 Research in Action)

Degree Requirements

- The Reading Specialist emphasis area requires practicums with young children and older students. These may be completed in the graduate students' school setting.
- Additional courses may be required for MO Reading Specialist certification (K – 12), depending upon undergraduate course work completed. MO teacher certificate also requires 2 years teaching experience. Candidates seeking certification as a Reading Specialist should work closely with their advisor to ensure they meet both degree and certification requirements.
- Additional requirements for those seeking the MO Elementary Math Specialist (1 – 6) certificate:
 - A. A valid Missouri permanent or professional certificate of license to teach; and
 - B. Two (2) years of successful mathematics teaching experience;
 - C. Must have recommendation of designated official for teacher education in the college or university with an approved program of study
 - D. Must complete the content knowledge or specialty area test designated by the State Board of Education with a score equal to or greater than the Missouri Qualifying Score.