MASTER’S FOR INITIAL LICENSURE

Program Description
St. Catherine University offers a teacher licensure program tailored for busy adults who have previously earned a bachelor’s degree. Courses are offered in a hybrid and online format and classes are scheduled during evenings and weekends. Courses are taught by professors with rich experience teaching in K-12 schools and they are aligned with the needs of today’s students and classrooms.

As a founding member of the Network for Excellence in Teaching (NExT), St. Kate’s is committed to ongoing program improvement based on feedback from students, alumni and employers. Elementary Education majors benefit from increased confidence and an employment boost via the STEM teaching certificate awarded to all of our elementary education teacher candidates. Our relationships with partner schools help us pair our teacher candidates with excellent cooperating teachers who teach in settings that serve a diverse student population. As field experience is a critical component of learning to become an effective teacher, teacher candidates should plan on 30-60 hours of fieldwork per semester leading up to student teaching.

Teacher candidates can choose from a variety of majors and endorsements including K-6 Elementary Education, Preprimary, K-12 Visual Arts, K-12 Spanish, 5-8 General Science, 5-12 Social Studies, 5-12 Communication Arts and Literature, 5-12 Math, 9-12 Chemistry and 9-12 Life Sciences. K-6 Elementary Education majors can also add 5-8 endorsements in Math, Science, Language Arts and Social Studies upon completion of specific content courses, pedagogy courses and field experiences.

All Minnesota teacher candidates are required to take and pass a series of exams that measure basic academic skills and content knowledge and pedagogy for the age group and course content they will be licensed to teach. During the 14-week student teaching experience, students will complete the edTPA, a national performance assessment required by the State of Minnesota. In addition to qualifying for a Minnesota teaching license, graduate students can earn the master’s degree with endorsement work is offered in a specific sequence and time-frame but the timing of research courses is flexible based on student preference.

Degree Requirements
The Master of Arts in Education degree is conferred upon candidates who have met the following requirements:

- completion of required courses
- attainment of a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Years to Complete the Program
The degree program must be completed within seven years, beginning with the first coursework in the program.

Transfer Credits
A maximum of six relevant graduate semester credits or nine relevant graduate quarter credits from another regionally accredited institution(s) may be transferred toward the MAED degree.

Progression Policy
In order to remain in good standing, students must fulfill the following:

- maintain an overall 3.0 grade point average.
- earn a grade of B– or better in each graduate course.
- successfully complete each assignment.
- adhere to the department’s criteria for professional/ethical behavior, integrity, honesty, personal behavior, respect for others and the Minnesota code of ethics for teachers.

In addition, in order to remain in good standing in the MAED Initial Licensure Program, students must fulfill the following:

- successfully complete and submit all information/documents for admission into the Education Department.
- adhere to the Education Department’s Disposition Policy and Minnesota Code of Ethics for Teachers.

Conditions for Probation
Students will be placed on probation for one term for any of the following reasons:

- lack of attendance and participation (90% attendance is required in the entire program).
- a grade lower than a B– earned in any course.
- overall GPA is less than 3.0.
- failure to fulfill the department’s criteria for professional/ethical behavior, integrity, honesty, personal behavior, respect for others or violations of the Minnesota code of ethics for teachers.
- violation of the institution’s policy on academic integrity (Note: St. Catherine expects all students and faculty to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any act of academic dishonesty threatens the value of all scholastic endeavor.)
- violation of the institution’s policy on student conduct.

The MAED Initial Licensure Policy Committee will review teacher candidates case by case and identify the conditions of academic probation. Failure to meet the Policy Committee’s written conditions for academic probation or to bring the grade point average to 3.0 by the end of the term on probation will result in automatic suspension from the program.

The teacher candidate has the opportunity to repeat any course where a grade of C+ or below was earned, but may not take the next courses in sequence unless approved and the conditions for continuance are agreed upon by the Policy Committee.

A student must complete the next segment of the program with grades of B– or better. If the teacher candidate does not qualify for removal from probation but shows significant improvement, the teacher candidate may be placed on extended probation.

At the end of the probationary period, the teacher candidate may be removed from probation, placed on extended probation or suspended. Removal from probation will occur when incomplete, failing or other grades below B– have been converted to a B– or better.
Removal from probation, which had been imposed for violations of the department’s criteria for professional/ethical behavior may require action by the Policy Committee or other university authority. In this case, removal from probation may not always be possible.

**Conditions for Program Dismissal**

Program dismissal will result as a consequence of the following:

- If conditions for removal from probation are not met

Violations of the department’s criteria for professional/ethical behavior, integrity, academic integrity, honesty, personal behavior, respect for others or violations of the Minnesota code of ethics (https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/8700/7500.html) for teachers will require special action by the Policy Committee or other college authority.

**Conditions for Readmission to the Program**

A student who has discontinued program course work for any reason - academic disqualification or personal reasons - must make application to the Director of Admissions (kmsande@stkate.edu) for readmission. Readmission to the program will occur when the following conditions have been met.

- Readmission has been approved by the Program Director and/or Chair of the Education Department
- A reasonable study plan has been made and mutually agreed upon by the student and Program Director/Chair/Academic Advisor

Readmission may not be possible after violation(s) of the department’s criteria for professional/ethical behavior, integrity, academic integrity, honesty, personal behavior, respect for others or violations of the Minnesota code of ethics (https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/8700/7500.html) for teachers. Readmission will require special action by the Policy Committee or other college authority.

The above policies have been adopted to protect the student, the department, the university, and the profession.

**Master's Degrees**

- Education: Elementary K-6 - MA (catalog.stkate.edu/graduate/business-professional-studies/education/initial-licensure/elem-k6)
- Education: Elementary K-6 with Montessori Elementary Credential - MA (catalog.stkate.edu/graduate/business-professional-studies/education/initial-licensure/k-6-mont-cred)
- Education: Kindergarten through Grade 12 - MA (catalog.stkate.edu/graduate/business-professional-studies/education/initial-licensure/k-12)
- Education: Secondary - MA (catalog.stkate.edu/graduate/business-professional-studies/education/initial-licensure/secondary)