

# Graduate Studies Programs

## *Masters of Arts in Teaching — Elementary*

### About the Program

The Simmons College MAT Program is committed to providing students who plan to teach at the elementary school level with the expertise, knowledge, and confidence they need to become effective and skillful classroom teachers. Students pursuing licensure at the elementary school level take method courses in reading and language arts, math, social studies, and science. In addition, students study the cultural and historical foundation of the American school and developmental psychology as it applies to learning and teaching strategies. Simmons has been successful in meeting a wide range of educational goals by providing each student with the advising necessary to develop a successful, individualized program of study. This personalized support is further enhanced by the small classes and close mentoring relationships that students develop with faculty in the program. Competitive merit scholarships are available for the most qualified applicants. Applicants are automatically considered for scholarships; there is no separate application.

### Sequence of Courses

The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program offers two options that lead to eligibility for the Initial Licensure. The Internship Program is a 40-credit degree program and requires a full-year internship, beginning in September and continuing to the end of the public school year in June. Students who select this option should plan to begin their studies in the summer semester. The Practicum Program is a 36-credit degree program that leads to the MAT and requires a 14-week, full-time practicum during the spring semester.

### Coursework

#### **GEDUC 460 Strategies for the Inclusive Classroom**

Examines a variety of teaching strategies applicable to students in heterogeneous classrooms: techniques to individualize instruction and promote mastery learning, development of cooperative learning strategies, and consideration of specific classroom and behavior management procedures. Requires fieldwork.

#### **GEDUC 445 Educational Psychology**

Examines the implications of psychology for teaching children and adolescents, emphasizing cognitive, social, and emotional development. Also covers learning styles, motivation, assessment, and evaluation. Requires individual presentations and papers that emphasize integration of students' educational experiences, theory, and practice.

*“I learned to teach through experience—always knowing that I had the support of my cooperating teacher and clinical supervisor from Simmons. At no other time in my teaching career will I have two people whose job it is to make sure that I grow as a teacher—every day. That’s why the Simmons MAT program is excellent for aspiring teachers.”*

CLAIRE “ABIE” BAAFI '02GS  
MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING



**SIMMONS**  
GRADUATE STUDIES ADMISSION

### **GEDUC 457 Cultural Foundations of Education**

Studies the purposes and effects of education in U.S. public schools by means of analyzing historical and contemporary sources. Reviews contributions to the Western educational tradition of Plato, Locke, Wollstonecraft, Dewey, DuBois, and Hutchins. Questions what is to be taught, who is to teach, and to whom the material is to be taught as developed in our tradition.

### **GEDUC 461 Social Studies, Science, and the Arts in Elementary Classroom**

Considers methods and materials for elementary curriculum in social studies, science, music, and art, emphasizing the unit approach to curriculum organization. Incorporates audiovisual materials. Examines experimental models and techniques of observation. Requires field experience in an inclusive classroom or a museum setting.

### **GEDUC 464 Reading and Language Arts for the Early Childhood and Elementary Classroom**

Considers methods of assessment and instruction in creating balanced literacy programs with reference to the ELA Frameworks throughout: decoding strategies including phonemic awareness and phonics skills; comprehension strategies; guided reading; literature circles; the writing process; and the integration of children's literature and poetry. Requires two mornings a week of fieldwork if taken concurrently with GEDUC 467.

### **GEDUC 467 Math for the Early Childhood and Elementary Classroom**

Considers basic topics of elementary mathematics from contemporary viewpoints to reinforce mathematics learning. Examines varying pupil responses and techniques of instruction and construction of curriculum units. Requires field experience in an inclusive classroom.

### **GEDUC 401 Seminar in Teaching and Learning at the Elementary Level**

Develops integrated curriculum units and explores different models of curriculum design, lesson plans, and interdisciplinary teaching. Teaches strategies to modify curriculum to accommodate different developmental levels and learning styles; and addresses issues of classroom management and parent communication. Develops appropriate assessment and evaluation procedures, measuring student progress. Requires practicum placement.

### **GEDUC 480 Practicum: Elementary Education (Grades 1-6)**

Assigns supervised teaching responsibilities in an inclusive classroom at the first-grade to sixth-grade level. Involves demonstrating effective classroom management procedures, implementing daily class lessons, developing long-range curriculum materials, and demonstrating effectiveness in serving students who are below the expected classroom instructional level.

### **GEDUC Elective**

### **Internship Program Only**

**GEDUC 400 Prepracticum Seminar**

**GEDUC 488 Prepracticum**

## *Contact Us*

Graduate Studies Admission  
T 617-521-2915  
F 617-521-3058  
E [gsa@simmons.edu](mailto:gsa@simmons.edu)

MAT Program  
Joy Bettencourt  
Program Advisor  
T 617-521-2570  
E [joy.bettencourt@simmons.edu](mailto:joy.bettencourt@simmons.edu)

Simmons College  
300 The Fenway  
Boston, MA 02115  
[www.simmons.edu/gradstudies](http://www.simmons.edu/gradstudies)



**SIMMONS**  
GRADUATE STUDIES ADMISSION