



The Master of Science for Teachers of Mathematics and Science

This graduate program is designed for individuals who already hold provisional certification with the State of New York and wish to gain the Master's degree necessary for permanent certification. The program offers courses in topics of contemporary importance in the life sciences, physical sciences, mathematics, and computer fields. Courses are designed to provide information in specific subject areas and their integration into the classroom. The program enables teachers to enhance their subject matter competence, to develop further competence in their present teaching assignments, to move from one subject area or teaching level to another, or to meet additional certification requirements. A different selection of courses is offered each academic year.

The M.S. degree in science or mathematics is awarded for the completion of eleven courses (36.6 credits). Normally, six courses are taken in one of three general subject areas: Life Science (biology, chemistry, and earth science), the Physical Sciences (chemistry, geology, physics), or the Mathematics/Computer field. Students interested in the degree must consult an academic advisor to plan their program of study and should matriculate no later than the end of their second course. One or two graduate level courses from other institutions may be transferred into the program, as determined by a faculty advisor.

Admission to the Program

Applicants to the program must have completed a B.A. or a B.S. from an accredited institution. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 in undergraduate and/or previous graduate work is normally expected. An interview, an essay, and at least three references are required, two of which must be academic. Evidence of intellectual achievement, motivation, and aptitude are necessary for admission. Students may complete the degree on a part-time or full-time basis and may apply at any time during the year.

Research Requirement

At least one research-based course must be completed as part of the student's subject area concentration. The thesis generally comprises two of the 6 courses in the discipline area of concentration. The thesis adviser is normally a faculty member in the academic discipline.

In lieu of a thesis, students may enroll in EDS 580, which involves carrying out classroom-based research in pedagogy as it relates to the discipline of the student's academic concentration. Students who write an M.S. for Teachers of Mathematics and Science project normally complete it during the winter term. Electing to complete a project usually means completing one more required elective in the discipline than those who complete an M.S. for Teachers thesis.

Elective Course Work

M.S. for Teachers students are normally required to take five elective courses beyond the six courses required in their discipline area selected with the approval of an advisor. Graduate courses in the subject area of certification and in education-related subjects are offered in the late afternoons and evenings of the academic year. With the approval of an advisor, up to two graduate-level electives may be transferred into the M.S. for Teachers.

Computer Literacy

Each student in the M.S. for Teachers program is expected to leave the program with a much greater degree of computer literacy than the degree with which s/he entered. Students who enter with less than basic computer knowledge, must take CST 565. Students who are admitted with a greater level of computer literacy/facility than CST 565 are expected to include as an elective one of the more advanced courses offered in the program.

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