Our MAT students include lawyers, government workers, and filmmakers. They have bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in areas including English, chemistry, and physics. They’ve traveled the world and worked for international organizations and businesses large and small. And they want to become teachers — to bring their talents and experiences to your classrooms.

About Transitional B Certification

Transitional B certification is a first-level teaching certificate issued to a school district to permit employment of a student enrolled in an alternative teacher-certification program. This three-year certificate leads to initial certification and professional certification (with three years of teaching experience).

When you hire our MAT students, we recommend the candidate for Transitional B certification using the New York State Education Department’s TEACH system. The New York State Education Department views Transitional B certification as equivalent to initial certification. The Transitional B certificate is valid for up to three years while the individual is matriculated in the MAT program and teaching in a qualifying position.

Master of Arts in Teaching Accreditation

Our teacher education programs were granted a full seven years of national accreditation through the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP) in December 2019. Accreditation is valid through December 31, 2026.

Contact Us

Office of Teacher Education
113 West Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518-587-2100, ext. 2230
TeacherEducation@esc.edu
Certification Areas

The SUNY Empire State College Master of Arts in Teaching program leads to the following certification areas:

- Agricultural Education (Pre-K-12)
- Biology (5-9 & 7-12)
- Chemistry (5-9 & 7-12)
- English (5-9 & 7-12)
- Earth Science (5-9 & 7-12)
- General Science Extension (5-9)
- Mathematics (5-9 & 7-12)
- Physics (5-9 & 7-12)
- Social Studies (5-9 & 7-12)
- Spanish (5-9 & 7-12)
- Students with Disabilities Generalist (1-6)
- Students with Disabilities Generalist (7-12)

Support and Mentorship

When you partner with SUNY Empire, we'll give long-term support to our student and to your school district.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNY Empire State College District Partnership</th>
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<tr>
<td>Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUNY Empire partners with your school to ensure support for your new teacher. Transitional B certified teachers continue to take coursework toward their MAT degree and are mentored by SUNY Empire faculty, in conjunction with the school district.</td>
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<tr>
<th>District Mentoring</th>
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<td>Daily mentoring is provided by certified school personnel during the first eight weeks of teaching and on a schedule agreed to by the district, teacher, and SUNY Empire thereafter.</td>
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<tr>
<th>College Mentoring</th>
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<td>Observation and advisement are provided by program faculty at least once a month during the first year of teaching.</td>
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Teachers Ready for the Classroom

Students eligible for Transitional B certification have completed:

- A bachelor’s (or advanced) degree from a regionally accredited college or university
- 24 or 30 credits in the appropriate content area
- 30 credits of general education requirements
- MAT introductory component requirement (minimum of 12-18 credits of graduate level coursework) with a minimum GPA of 3.0
- 50 (or more) hours of fieldwork
- Examinations
  - Content Specialty Test (Multi-subject CST for Special Education students)
  - Educating All Students Exam
- Workshops
  - School violence
  - Child abuse and prevention
  - DASA training
  - Autism (for MAT in Special Education students only)
- Fingerprinting and criminal history background check