

Chapter 9: Graduate Discipline Spotlight

This year's graduate spotlight will take a focus on some of the new requirements related to the Masters of Arts in Education program.

MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION (MAE)

The Education Department at Truman State University offers the Master of Arts in Education, a professional teaching degree. All prospective teachers enrolling in the professional program must complete a strong liberal arts and sciences baccalaureate degree. (Truman does not offer an undergraduate degree in education.) The program exemplifies an integrated approach to liberal education, professional studies, and specialty studies as Joseph Baldwin's original school did.

Over the past five years state mandated changes have been implemented by the Education Department for the MAE in order to be in compliance with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) accreditation and certification requirements. During the 2018-2019 academic year, additional updates have been made to meet the DESE changes.

1. Revisions/updates have been made to Truman's **Curriculum Matrices** as new courses have been added to the catalog or as programs have changed requirements. Truman's matrices align with Missouri state requirements and certification requirements. The Missouri Standards for the Preparation of Educators (MoSPE) articulates the State's expectations for teacher preparation programs.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has approved curriculum changes for Physical Education K-12, Health K-12, and English Language Learners K-12. English 9-12, Biology 9-12, Chemistry 9-12, and Physics 9-12 are awaiting approval of curricular changes.

2. **GPA requirement** changes for initial teacher certification went into effect on August 1, 2017. The new requirements include a 2.75 GPA (overall – undergrad/grad combined), a 3.00 GPA – content courses for specific certification areas per the curriculum matrices (undergrad/grad combined), and a 3.00 GPA in profession education courses at both the undergrad and graduate levels.

There were 112 graduates from the MAE during the 2017-2018 academic year (fall, spring, summer). All graduates completed the required assessments and earned an average GPA in the following required areas: overall combined undergrad and graduate levels – 3.575, professional education courses (undergraduate and graduate levels) – 3.878, and certification content courses (undergraduate and graduate levels) – 3.641.

3. **MEGA (Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments)** – Several changes were made to the MEGA assessments which are required by DESE for all students pursuing certification as a teacher, counselor, administrator or Library Media Specialist and the Missouri Educator Evaluation System.

There are four MEGA Assessments:

- **Missouri Educator Profile (MEP)** was discontinued by DESE.
 - The Education Department at Truman developed a disposition assessment for students in the pre-education and MAE programs. There will be self-evaluations, mentor evaluations, and university supervisor evaluations in all education classes with a field experience component at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The focus of the evaluations will be professionalism, collaboration, and teacher-student interaction.

- Missouri General Education Assessment (MoGEA) – This test replaced the former C-Base exam and is required for all BSED and BME teacher education candidates. MoGEA must be passed prior to admission to Teacher Education. **(Students in the MAE are not required to take the MoGEA assessment because Truman certifies teacher candidates only at the master’s level.)**

The MoGEA measures student's current knowledge in the following 5 areas: English, Writing, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

- Missouri Content Assessments (MoCA) – Content Assessments are tests taken by all candidates for a teaching or student services or administrative certifications toward the end of their program. Candidates must pass the appropriate Missouri Content Assessment in order to be recommended for certification.
 - Changes will be made to several contents
 - Social Science 9-12 will change from six subtests to one test with 100 questions. This will be implemented in fall 2019.
 - Sciences will change from nine to four certifications (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science). There will no longer be Unified Science certifications.
 - The Elementary content test is in the process of redesign and is projected to include an integrated English/Language Arts test with Social Science and an integrated Math and Science test.
 - Computer Science for add-on certification is new and is legislated to be operational July, 1, 2019.
 - Special Reading certification will now require a content test.

Once a candidate is certified to teach in any area, other certificates can be added by passing the appropriate Missouri Content Assessment in that area.

- Missouri Performance Assessment (MoPTA) was discontinued by DESE.

4. The Missouri Educator Evaluation System (MEES) was implemented as the primary performance assessment for Missouri Educators in fall 2018. It focuses on the improvement of effective educational practices and the professional development of teachers, principals and school superintendents. The model evaluation system was developed by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in partnership with educators, school district officials, education organizations, and teacher education programs at the state's colleges and universities.

Missouri law requires all school districts in the state to evaluate educators employed by the district. Truman MAE students are evaluated with this assessment during their student teaching internships in preparation for their transition to a first-year educator.

Annual Performance Report (APR)

The Missouri Standards for the Preparation of Educators (MoSPE) outline the expectations for programs that are preparing educators for certification in Missouri. In order to ensure that programs are meeting these expectations, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) established an Annual Performance Report for Educator Preparation Programs (APR-EPP) to measure the performance of educator preparation programs (EPPs) in valid, accurate and meaningful ways. The APR-EPP is based on the MoSPE performance standards and provides a mechanism by which to review and approve EPPs at the certification program level.

Each performance indicator by standard included in the APR-EPP is built from data collected on Truman's completers during the 2017-18 academic year. Certification Candidates are identified based on the data submitted by EPPs. Data includes (1) GPA's – overall, content (as required by approved matrices), and professional education/content assessment scores, (2) MoCA Content Test scores, (3) MEES evaluation scores, and (4) First-Year Teacher survey results. The academic year is standardized across programs and begins with the fall semester. Thus, each academic year includes the fall, spring and summer semesters. In order to retain accreditation, Truman's certification programs must meet designated benchmarks for each applicable indicator.

Information provided through these reports assist in recognizing high-performing programs as models of excellence based on a set of indicators. Likewise, the reports will facilitate identification of programs in need of improvement so they can receive appropriate support.

