Texas State University offers a master of arts in developmental education, a comprehensive, broad-based degree that addresses the needs of developmental learners in postsecondary education. Housed within the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, the program prepares scholars, researchers, leaders, administrators, instructors and practitioners to work in developmental education programs in two- and four-year colleges and universities.

Both rigorous and supportive, the program advances theory, research and practice in multiple areas of developmental education — including academic literacy, learning support and developmental mathematics — by actively engaging students in teaching, scholarship and professional service.

This is a multidisciplinary program. The faculty, staff and students work collaboratively across various academic disciplines, diverse communities and geographic boundaries.
Course Work
The master of arts in developmental education is a 36-hour, thesis-optional program with a common core of courses that provide a broad-based understanding of the field. Students selecting the thesis option will complete an original research study, which provides excellent preparation for future doctoral studies. Students will select an area of specialization based on their goals and career expectations.

The learning support option provides a comprehensive and holistic approach to prepare educators to lead instruction and academic support programs for postsecondary students seeking academic assistance in a wide array of disciplines. Courses focus on theory and strategies that permit educators to help students in two- and four-year institutions achieve greater understanding and mastery of their course material — particularly in assisting students who are experiencing academic difficulties. The learning support option prepares graduates to manage learning support centers (online and traditional), learning skills labs, TRIO programs, summer bridge programs, conditional admission programs and structured learning communities.

The academic literacy (reading and writing) option prepares educators to develop the requisite theoretical and practical literacy knowledge to successfully teach in two- and four-year institutions. Courses focus on foundational and advanced theory and practice of literacy learning in postsecondary settings including college literacy, theory and research of literacy, and foundations in rhetoric and composition. The academic literacy option prepares graduates to manage developmental literacy programs and teach in developmental reading and/or writing programs.

The developmental mathematics option prepares educators to develop the requisite instructional and mathematics skills to be successful in teaching college-level mathematics courses. The courses provide students with content related to algebra, analysis and topology, discrete mathematics and statistics. Mathematics education courses are available as well.

Graduate Minor
Two options are available to students in other Texas State University master’s programs that allow for minor areas of study: a 15-credit-hour minor in developmental education and a 15-credit-hour minor in community college support programs.

Career Options
Graduates of the program are prepared to pursue careers in the following areas:

- learning assistance centers and tutorial programs at two- and four-year colleges and universities
- developmental instruction programs in writing, mathematics, reading and learning strategy development at two- and four-year colleges and universities
- pre-college-to-college transition programs, such as the federal TRIO programs, which include Talent Search, Upward Bound and Student Support Services, as well as other transition programs at two- and four-year colleges and universities.

Admission Policy
Applicants to the master of arts in developmental education program should have a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited university. The College of Education requires students to have a minimum GPA of least 2.75 for the last 60 undergraduate hours.

Applicants must submit the following to The Graduate College at Texas State:

- the online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
- a signed and dated departmental application form
- application fee
- one official transcript from each college or university attended
- statement of purpose of approximately 500 words describing the applicant’s background and professional goals. This should include:
  1. a rationale for pursuing their chosen professional degree program
  2. how their goals tie into the mission of the graduate program
  3. their philosophy of teaching and learning
- three letters of reference from individuals with knowledge of you as a student or as a professional

Financial Assistance
The program offers a limited number of graduate assistantships. Contact the department’s graduate coordinator for more information. For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit The Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing your Graduate Education.

Application Deadlines
Applications must be submitted by June 15 for the fall semester, October 15 for the spring semester and April 15 for the summer semester. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

Contact
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Developmental Education Master of Arts Program
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