



# BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Educator as Servant Leader  
Learning to Lead – Leading to Serve

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS

### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

#### MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING/NON-LICENSURE DEGREE PROGRAM

The **Master of Arts in Teaching/Non-Licensure** degree (**MAT/NON-LICENSURE**) is for individuals who have a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Arts degree in a content area other than Education and who would like to acquire the knowledge base of teaching and learning and want to gain the skills and competencies they need to become a teacher. By signing this *Memorandum of Understanding* I am aware and completely understand that the Belhaven University Graduate School of Education’s Master of Arts in Teaching Degree (MAT) **does not guarantee or qualify me for an educator licensure, certification, or endorsement within the state of my residence or state that I might find employment.**

I have made application for the degree of Master of Arts in Teaching/*Non-Licensure* and have read and understand the outcomes and considerations of this degree.

**I acknowledge that I have fully read and understand the following:**

- Once admitted to the MAT/NON-LICENSURE degree program, I am eligible to apply for Federal financial aid.
- **Once I complete this degree, I understand that this degree does not meet the requirement to apply for an initial state teacher certification in Mississippi or any other state.**
- This degree program does NOT require me to have taken or to have passed the MDE required certification tests for admission to the Master of Arts/*Non-Licensure* degree program as is required of applicants to the Master of Arts in Teaching/*Alternate Route to Teacher Certification* degree program.
- **This degree program does NOT qualify me to be recommended for a Mississippi Department of Education Alternate Route Teacher Certificate or for any other certifications within the United States.**
- **Once I have been admitted to the MAT/NON-LICENSURE degree program and should I decide that I would like to earn the Mississippi (MDE) *Alternate Route Teacher Certification*, I may choose to change my degree plan by submitting a *Request for Degree Change Form* requesting admission to the MAT- ALT/CERT program.**
- **I can only change degree plans if all criteria for admission to the MAT-ALT/CERT degree program have been met. This includes passing all the MDE required tests for Alternate Route Teacher Certification prior to being admitted “Unconditionally” to the MAT-ALT/CERT degree program.**
- I must have qualifying passing scores on the following tests in order to change my degree plan:
  1. Entrance General Knowledge Test (1 of the following 3)
    - Praxis CORE scores: Reading (156), Writing (162), Math (150)
    - ACT scores: Composite score of 21 or higher
    - Qualifying SAT scores
  2. Subject Content Knowledge Test
    - Pass PRAXIS II SPECIALTY AREA TEST: Scores in content area must meet MS qualifying scores – **OR** -
  3. Elementary 4-5-6 Grades: Foundations of Reading Test
    - Only required of candidates seeking teaching licensure for Elementary Education grades 4-6; must take and pass the Foundations of Reading Test (minimum passing score = 229) before they can be admitted to the MAT program
- Should I take and pass the MDE required Alternate Route Teacher Certification tests once I complete the MAT/Non-Licensure degree program, I will have five years from the date of degree completion to complete the MDE licensure process for my 3-year initial license, obtain a teaching position and complete the two required internship courses to qualify for my 5-year renewable license. I understand that I will need to contact the BU Financial Aid Office to see if the two internship courses will qualify for financial aid once I have earned the MAT/Non-Licensure degree.
- **The Belhaven University School of Education will NOT provide school districts or me with letters for the MDE Special Non-Renewable License. The School of Education will not provide MDE or a School/District with a letter of “Unconditional Acceptance” regarding my status while I am enrolled in the MAT/Non-Licensure degree program.**

Candidate’s Name –Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_