MAT 1-6 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the prerequisites for acceptance into the MAT 1-6 Program?

• You will need a GPA of 3.0 or higher in your undergraduate studies.
• APPLICANTS are required to have completed an undergraduate major of no fewer than 30 credits in one of the disciplines in liberal arts and sciences. Majors in vocationally oriented areas, such as business administration (including but not limited to advertising, management, accounting, hospitality, and fashion merchandising), broadcasting, fashion design, and nursing do NOT meet these requirements. Concentrations in fields designed primarily as vocational training (e.g., business) or a combination of a variety of topics in liberal arts and sciences without a clear focus, therefore, will NOT be accepted. HOWEVER, applicants with vocationally-oriented undergraduate majors may satisfy the liberal arts/sciences major requirement through an alternative method: You may complete 30 semester credits in one liberal arts/sciences field, without having officially received a degree in that field. Some business majors, for example, may find it feasible to complete 30 credits in economics by taking additional undergraduate courses at a local community college, and broadcasting majors may choose to complete 30 credits in journalism. While a possibility, interdisciplinary concentrations involve specific State requirements; please consult with an advisor.
• For more details, see “MAT Application Worksheets.”

How do I apply?

• All applications are now done online ONLY.
• To apply, go to the admissions page on the Queens College website. Click on “Graduate Admissions.” We encourage you to read all the information that the graduate admissions site has posted. Then, click on "Applications." Scroll down to bottom of page. Open the "MAT Application." Open this document. This document shows you the prerequisites you need to qualify for our program. (See also “MAT Application Worksheets.” These are the same documents.) You will need to fill out the two worksheets in this document and include them with your application. The application is done online. Click on "Ready to Apply" and follow the steps for applying.
• You can also come in to speak with an advisor. See “Advisement Hours, Fall, 2014” for advisor office hours and contact information.

What documents do I need for applying?

You will need:

• The two supplementary worksheets. (See also “MAT Application Worksheets.”)
• 2 to 3 letters of recommendation. If at all possible, we recommend that one of these letters be from an academic source.
• A 500 to 750-word essay that expresses your reasons for applying to our program.
• Your official transcripts from all institutions where you did your undergraduate (and, if applicable, your graduate-level) studies. If you have Regents exams for exemptions (such as in foreign language), please include your high school transcripts that give evidence of these exams.
• All the electronic information that you must fill out on the online graduate application.

**What if I have deficits in the prerequisites on the supplementary worksheets?**
In some cases, strong applicants with up to 3 missing course prerequisites may be conditionally admitted into the program, pending the completion of missing prerequisites within 12 months.

If you have more than 3 missing course prerequisites, we advise you to complete the prerequisites, then reapply to our program.

**What if I have studied one of the vocational-training fields (e.g., business, nursing, broadcasting) and cannot put together an interdisciplinary or alternative field of concentration of 30 credits or more?**
Identify on the supplementary worksheet as many courses as possible that fit an alternative or interdisciplinary liberal arts field. You will then be able to determine how many more courses you will need to take in order to fulfill 30 or more credits. Take those courses, then re-apply to our program.

**What is my overall undergraduate GPA is lower than 3.0?**
We do accept some candidates who have GPAs of 2.8 to 3.0 IF they show promising applications in other categories, such as: extensive and ongoing experience working with children; strong letters of recommendation from school-setting personnel or from academic sources; strong essays that express their commitment and desire to becoming an elementary school teacher; one or two semesters of low performance, but otherwise strong undergraduate records. In these cases, we generally accept students on probation, pending strong results (3.33 GPAs or higher), in the first 12-credits of our program.
If your GPA is below 2.8, we generally advise you to re-take some courses to raise your overall GPA, then re-apply.

**When will I be informed of the decision?**
IF your application is complete, we will be able to review your application within three weeks of your submission, and you will be informed of the decision within five weeks of your submission. Please note that it is your responsibility to make sure that all parts of your application are entered. Please check with the graduate admissions office at 718-997-5200. Again, we can only review complete applications.

**How will I be informed of the decision?**
You will receive a letter in the mail from the Graduate Admissions Office of the decision, including any probationary conditions to your acceptance.

**How many credits is the program?**
45 credits.

**Is there a required sequence of courses?**
Yes. Please refer to "MAT 1-6 Course Sequence."
Do the courses have to be taken in a particular sequence?
Yes. Please refer to "EECE MAT 1-6 Checklist."

What exams and seminars do I have to pass for certification?
Please refer to "MAT 1-6 Course Sequence" and "EECE MAT 1-6 Checklist" for details. In addition, please consult "Recommended Sequence of Certification Seminars and Exams" for details about WHEN in the program to take the exams and seminars.

How do I earn dual-certification with special education?
We offer two pathways. (a) If you are accepted into our MAT 1-6 program, you can first complete the program, then apply for the post-master’s degree advanced certification in special education for 18 credits. (b) You can apply directly to the MAT 1-6/special education dual-certification program for 60 credits. In this case, please contact the directors of this program for more information: Dr. Denise Ferrara, denise.ferrara@qc.cuny.edu, 718-997-5247; Dr. Juan Valdez, juan.valdez@qc.cuny.edu, 718-997-5374.

How do I earn dual-certification in bilingual education?
We offer two pathways. (a) If you are accepted into our MAT 1-6 program, you can first complete the program, then apply for the post-master’s degree advanced certification in bilingual education for 18 credits. (b) You can apply directly to the MAT 1-6 with advanced certification in bilingual education. In this case, please contact the director of this program for more information: Dr. Patricia Velasco, patricia.velasco@qc.cuny.edu, 718-997-5318.

What if I am interested in early childhood education, Birth through Grade 2?
In this case, please apply to our MAT 1-6 Early Childhood Education program. For more information, please contact: Dr. Patricia Cooper, patricia.cooper@qc.cuny.edu, 718-997-5260; Dr. Sara Michael-Luna, sara.michaelluna@qc.cuny.edu, 718-997-5392.

I already have my initial certification in elementary education as an undergraduate. What Master’s-degree program should I apply to?
In this case, you should apply to the MSED program. For more information, please contact the program director: Dr. Beverly Bisland, beverly.bisland@qc.cuny.edu, 718-997-5310.

Can I meet with an advisor about the program?
Absolutely. Please see "Advisement Hours," on the EECE website for details of advisors, their contact information, and their office hours.