



BardMAT

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING PROGRAM

Teaching What Matters

Bringing together work in the content area and education

Frequently Asked Questions: English

Quick Facts About Studying English with the Bard MAT

1

Literature students take graduate courses in literature and education.

2

Comparable to a Master's thesis, the ARP provides a comprehensive view into a single literary question. Recent ARPs have included studies of Asian-American graphic novel superheroes and father-daughter relationships in Shakespeare's *Othello* and *King Lear*.

3

Small seminars and close interactions with faculty foster a cooperative and supportive learning environment.

What will I learn in the content classes?

The MAT English curriculum offers the integrated study of literature, literary criticism, and literary pedagogy. MAT students take core courses, developed as examples of literary study that are responsive to current scholarship and influenced by the needs of future secondary teachers. Sample courses include Poetic Voices, American Realisms, Gender and Domesticity in 19th Century America, and The Empire Writes Back.

How will I learn it?

In small, seminar settings, you will analyze literary and critical texts with an awareness of the diverse models of close reading that literary theory has generated. You will also produce a range of written assignments that give you insight into how composition facilitates understanding and encourages complex thinking.

What is the academic research project (ARP)?

The ARP is conducted in connection with a course in U.S. or World literature. You will read widely in the subject under study, design a research program that extends the work done in that course, and write an annotated bibliography plus a series of analytical essays over a period of several months.

How will I learn to teach my subject?

Course designs and individual lessons are intended to be models for future teachers, while the practices, strategies, and habits of mind learned in class will also be resources for future teaching. MAT students meet weekly throughout the program in a teaching lab where we experiment with teaching practices and answer pedagogical and practical questions that spring from our reading and your apprenticeship in the public schools.

Frequently Asked Questions: Education

Quick Facts About Studying Education with the Bard MAT

1

You will apprentice in public school classrooms throughout the entire year, gaining more responsibility for teaching over time.

2

The teaching lab sequence will support your work, applying what you have learned in discipline and education courses to your classroom apprenticeship.

3

Bard MAT graduate faculty and students work side by side with public school teachers and students - teaching, learning, and learning to teach well.

What will I learn in the education classes?

Education courses in the Bard MAT program address those issues most central to teachers' and learners' success in the middle or high school classroom. As an apprentice, you will learn how to plan and develop curriculum and promote the literacy development of students across academic disciplines. You will also learn about adolescent development and how young people's identities, cultures, and languages may impact their performance in school. Finally, you will learn about both the historical and social contexts of the teaching profession to understand the unique roles you can play as an agent of change.

How will I learn it?

Like the discipline courses, education courses are taught in small, seminar-like settings intended to foster graduate students' active involvement in their own learning. Because the MAT is a pre-professional program, much of the learning in the education courses focuses on practical applications, and you will have opportunities to make close connections between the material you are learning in the graduate classroom and fieldwork in the schools.



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