Masters of Science in Education Admission FAQ’s

**CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS – ROCKLAND, MANHATTAN, OR ONLINE CAMPUS**

The MS Childhood Education program is ideal for persons preparing for initial or additional NYS certification to teach general education grades 1-6. We also offer a non-certification track for those who are interested in pursuing a Master’s degree for Professional licensure, would like to work overseas, or would like to work in private or parochial school settings.

**MS Childhood Education (No Certification)**
- 36 Credits
- 18 Months Degree Completion

**MS Childhood Education Initial Certification – NYS Resident Only**
- 45 Credits
- 2 Years Degree Completion

**MS Childhood Education Additional Certification – NYS Resident Only**
- 39 Credits
- 2 Years Degree Completion

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**CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS – ROCKLAND, MANHATTAN, OR ONLINE CAMPUS**

The MS Childhood Special Education program is ideal for persons preparing for initial or additional NYS certification to teach special education grades 1-6. We also offer a non-certification track for those who are interested in pursuing a Master’s degree for Professional licensure, would like to work overseas, or would like to work in Private or Parochial school settings.

**MS Childhood Special Education (No Certification)**
- 30 Credits
- 18 Months Degree Completion

**MS Childhood Special Education Initial Certification – NYS Resident Only**
- 42 Credits
- 2 Years Degree Completion

**MS Childhood Special Education Additional Certification – NYS Resident Only**
- 30-36 Credits
  - 30 for those whose Initial Certification is in Childhood Education
  - 36 for those whose Initial Certification is in anything else
- 2 Years Degree Completion

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June 2016
Masters of Science in Education Admission FAQ’s

TESOL PROGRAMS – ONLINE CAMPUS

The MAT/MS TESOL programs are ideal for persons preparing for initial or additional NYS certification to teach English to speakers of other languages, Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12. We also offer a non-certification track for those who are interested in pursuing a Master’s degree for Professional licensure, would like to work overseas, would like to work with adults, or would like to work in private or parochial school settings.

MS TESOL (No Certification)
- 30 Credits
- 18 Months Degree Completion

MAT TESOL Initial Certification – NYS Resident Only
- 39 Credits
- 2 Years Degree Completion

MS TESOL Additional Certification – NYS Resident Only
- 33 Credits
- 2 Years Degree Completion

MS INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS – MANHATTAN OR ONLINE CAMPUS

The Inclusive Education program has been designed to meet the academic requirements for obtaining a professional teaching certificate in New York State. Students can choose to complete the program with a track for Bilingual Education Extension (in the area of your initial certification) through this program. Initial/Provisional New York State or ACSI teaching certification or evidence or having met all requirements for a teaching certificate is necessary for admission to the Inclusive Education programs; students with equivalent out-of-state certification may be accepted.

MS Inclusive Education
- 30 Credits
- 18 Months Degree Completion

MS Inclusive Education (NYS Bilingual Extension)
- 30 Credits
- 18 Months Degree Completion
APPLICATION
How do I apply?
   a. Applications can be completed either online or by hand. If you wish to submit an Online Application, please click the following link OnLine Application.

Does the Application have a fee?
   a. Yes, $30.00

Can I apply to more than one program? If so, do I need to submit two applications?
   a. If you are applying to more than one MSEd Program, you do not need to submit two applications. However, if you are applying to a MSEd program and another Graduate program at Nyack College, you will need to submit two applications as well as the required documents that each program requires.

What if I have completed the application process in the past, can that application be used?
   a. Applications older than one year will have to be resubmitted. Contact the Admissions Counselor for further information.

What are the application deadlines?
   Fall: July 15
   Spring: November 30
   Summer: April 1

How will I know the status of my Application?
   a. You will be notified of your acceptance via email.

How will I know when all of my documents have been received?
   a. You will be notified when Admissions receives your documents via email.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS
In addition to the Online Application, what other documents are required?
   a. Applicants can find a detailed Admissions Checklist at the following link Admissions Checklist.

Where do I send my additional required documents?
   a. Please contact the Admissions Associate via email at rocklandadmissions@nyack.edu or mail documents to Nyack College/Central Admissions. All documents (other than the official transcripts) can be scanned and emailed, faxed, or mailed to the MSEd Admissions Associate. USPS mail addresses can be found at the program’s website.

FINANCIAL AID
How many credits do I need to take to be considered a full time graduate student?
   a. To be considered as a “full time” graduate student, you must take 9 credits each semester. If you wish to use loans to help pay for your program, you must take a MINIMUM of 6 credits each semester to qualify for loans. Refer to this page for further information MSEd Finances.

TRANSCRIPTS
Is there a minimum grade point average (GPA) required for admission?
   a. Yes. Applicants must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale.

What constitutes an “official” transcript?
   a. Official transcripts are only valid when they are issued in a sealed, unopened envelope from the school you attended. They have an official seal/stamp and an official signature by an appropriate academic administrative officer. Photocopied documents are NOT official. Final transcripts state that a degree has been administered and provide the date which it was awarded.

June 2016
Do I have to have my transcript translated if it is not in English?
  a. Yes. Academic records from international universities, that are not in English, must be accompanied by an official English translation. Academic records must be translated by an authoritative party. We typically require the World Education services (WES) Official Translation.

What if the school I attended did not offer the equivalent of a 4-year US degree?
  a. Educational systems that cannot be compared to the United States must be evaluated by a US credentials evaluation service before admission can be finalized. The transcript evaluation service accepted by Nyack College is World Education Service (WES), which can be accessed at WES.

What if I went to a college, but I did not graduate? What if I just took classes there?
  a. Applicants are only required to submit transcripts from all undergraduate institutions attended from which a degree was earned. Applicants, however, must submit all transcripts relating to any graduate level work undertaken, regardless of whether or not a degree was earned. Please note a department’s graduate program admissions committee always reserves the right to request additional information.

Do I have to send original transcripts from my university? I come from an international school, and my school only issues one official copy of my transcript. Is it okay to send photocopies of my transcript and only submit the originals after I am accepted?
  a. Nyack College will only accept official transcripts.

TRANSFER CREDITS

What if I want to transfer credits from a school outside the US?
  a. College-level courses completed outside the United States and recorded on official transcripts will be evaluated for transfer credit, provided that the institution where the courses were taken is accredited by the Ministry of Education in that country. International transfer students who have completed college-level courses outside the United States may be requested to submit proof of accreditation by the Ministry of Education or provide a WES evaluation at this link WES.

Will credit transfer from U.S. institutions of higher education?
  a. Graduate-level courses completed at a school inside the United States and recorded on official transcripts will be evaluated for transfer credit, provided that the institution where the courses were taken is accredited. Transfer credits are discussed during the interview stage of the application process with the Program Director.

Are there a maximum number of transfer credits Nyack College will accept?
  a. Yes. The maximum number of transfer credits accepted for transfer is 12 credits. Credits over 7 years old will not be accepted.

If I have transfer credit, will the program duration be the same?
  a. No. You will proceed through the program with your cohort; however, your minimum number of credits per semester may be reduced.

RECOMMENDATIONS

What types of recommendations are required?
  a. Nyack College MSEd Program requires that 2 Academic Recommendations and 1 Professional Recommendation be submitted during the Application Process.

Can the person who is recommending me use the paper recommendation form?
  a. Yes. The program’s website has a downloadable paper recommendation form for you to print. Be sure to complete and sign the top portion of both the Academic and Professional Recommendation Forms BEFORE giving to your recommender for completion. Forms that are missing information on the top portion or do not contain the applicant’s signature will not be accepted. Paper recommendations must be sent directly to the MSEd program in a sealed envelope, signed across the seal by the recommender. Please contact the MSEd Admissions Associate if you have any further questions.

June 2016
Where do I find recommendation forms to give to my recommenders? I cannot find them on your website.
  a. In order to gain access to our recommendation forms, you must start an online account. Within your application, you can either send emails directing your recommenders to each submit a recommendation online, or you may download a paper recommendation form to give to your recommender. Paper recommendations must be sent directly to the MSEd program in a sealed envelope, signed across the seal by the recommender.

TEST SCORES
Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)
Is there a minimum GRE requirement?
  a. Your GRE score is considered as part of your total admissions packet.

Is the GRE required for admittance into all MSEd Programs?
  a. The GRE general test is required of applicants who are seeking an Initial and Additional New York State (NYS) Certification. Those interested in the non-certification programs do not have to take the GRE.
  b. If you are seeking Initial Certification, you may submit SAT or ACT test scores from within the last 5 years to satisfy the GRE requirement.

I have taken the GRE test as required. Should I send copies of my scores to Nyack College?
  a. No. Please request that Educational Testing Services (ETS) send official score reports to Nyack College (School Code: 2560) in order for your application to be reviewed.

When should I take the GRE?
  a. You should ensure that your GRE scores are received by Admissions by the application deadline.

TUITION and FEES
What are the tuition and fees at Nyack College? How can I apply for Financial Aid?
  a. For all questions regarding tuition, fees, and financial aid, please refer to Nyack College’s MSEd Financial Services website MSEdFinances

How do I apply for Nyack College’s Grants?
  a. Grants will be awarded if you meet the grant criteria. Please visit MSEd Finances website to determine possible eligibility.

GENERAL PROGRAM DURATION
When do classes meet?
  a. Nyack College’s hybrid programs have class 1 weeknight per week and it typically meets from 6pm-9pm.
  *Times and dates are liable to change depending on program, so please contact the MSEd Admissions Associate for more details.
  b. Nyack College’s Online courses are completely online, and do not normally require students to log in at specific times as they are primarily asynchronous. However, there may be exceptions.

How many hours per week should I expect to spend on course work?
  a. Students should expect to spend approximately 20 hours a week on coursework based on a 9 credit course load per semester.

What is field experience, and how many hours do I need to complete?
  a. Field experiences are those that support course work where students are in schools observing tenured teachers and working with students in small group settings. Students should anticipate about 30 – 40 hours of field experiences a semester. Nyack College makes these placements for the students.

What is practicum?

June 2016
a. Practicum is a supervised experience where candidates teach and participate in instructional duties in a setting appropriate for their certificate. Initial and non-certification students complete 50 hours in the same setting, while additional certification students are required to complete a total of 30 days (15 days in two different contexts).

What is Internship or Student Teaching?

a. Internship or Student Teaching is the capstone experience for students pursuing NYS initial certification. It extends for one full semester, daily, 8:00 – 4:00. Two placements are required covering the grade span of the certificate.

Can I “waive” a program’s internship/student teaching requirement if I have classroom experience?

a. No, currently NYSED does not substitute experience for student teaching for the Childhood, Special Education and TESOL certifications.

Do I need to arrange my own field experience/practicum/student teaching?

a. No. Nyack College has field experience personnel who contact schools and set up placements for you. There is an application process for practicum and student teaching, however, the field experience personnel guides you through the process.

How do I purchase textbooks for my classes?

a. After you have been registered and matriculated, you will receive your semester’s schedule. Once you have the course codes (e.g., EDG 123) you may go to the Nyack College book store and order the textbooks by using your course code. Access the bookstore here OnLine Bookstore.

I do not live in New York, can I still get a Master’s Degree at Nyack College?

a. Yes, all MSEd programs have online tracks; however, candidates seeking initial certification must be residents of New York State.

If I wish to move outside of New York, will my license transfer?

a. New York State Department of Education participates in the interstate consortium with NASDTEC (National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification) meaning that teacher candidates from New York State may apply for certification in another state; however, your state may have additional certification requirements such as licensure exams. Contact your state’s Department of Education for further details.

I am an International Student, am I able to gain a New York State Teaching License?

a. For more information regarding New York State Licensing, please visit the following link http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/citizenshipreq.html.

Do I need a teaching certificate to teach in a private or parochial school?

a. Some nonpublic schools may require New York State certification. Please contact the individual school for this information.

**TAKING GRADUATE COURSES OUTSIDE A DEGREE PROGRAM**

Can I take a graduate course(s) without entering a degree program?

a. If you have a baccalaureate degree and are interested in taking graduate MSEd courses at Nyack College without working toward a degree, you may apply for admission as a Non-Matriculated Graduate Student, a.k.a. Non-Degree Seeking (NDS) student.

b. The maximum number of graduate credits that one may earn as a non-matriculated graduate student (NDS) that may later be considered for a MSEd graduate degree is six.

c. Enrollment as a NDS student does not guarantee admission to the MSEd Program. You must formally apply and be admitted to the MSEd Program.

d. NDS students may take a maximum of 6 credits per semester.

June 2016
HOUSING:
Where can I find information about On-Campus, Graduate Housing?
   a. For information about on-campus housing, please refer to the following website Nyack Housing:

CONTACT INFORMATION:
For further information about Nyack College MSEd Admission, please email: rocklandadmissions@nyack.edu.