Frequently Asked Questions

Master of Arts in Education with a Concentration in Mathematics Education (K-8)

1. Who should apply for this program?

We seek elementary teachers or middle school teachers of mathematics who are interested in exploring how to teach and learn mathematics more effectively. You do not need to be a math whiz to join the program. You do, however, need to have an interest in furthering your knowledge of the mathematical ideas in the K-8 curriculum, how children think about mathematics, how math instruction can empower all children rather than an elite few, and how research can improve instruction. The program consists of 30 units of coursework.

2. What are the program goals?

By the end of the program, faculty expect that students have

- enhanced their practices related to mathematics learning, teaching, and assessment to support their students’ learning of the Common Core State Standards of Mathematics. In particular, instruction begins with eliciting students’ mathematical ideas to inform their instruction;
- developed skills to help other teachers learn about mathematics teaching, learning, and assessment;
- examined and/or changed their beliefs and knowledge about mathematics, who can do mathematics, and how to teach mathematics;
- learned to conduct and read about research in service of enhancing their teaching practice; and
- identified ways to continue learning after the program has ended by reading research, participating in local and/or national professional communities, and listening to and learning from their students.

3. What are some program courses?

Core Courses include

- Teaching and Learning Mathematics in the Early Grades (Pre K-4)
- Teaching and Learning Mathematics in the Middle Grades (5-8)
- Assessment in Mathematics Education
- Yearlong seminar to investigate a topic of interest in teachers’ classrooms

3. Who are the program faculty?

SDSU has a diverse mathematics education faculty that include faculty in the School of Teacher Education and the Department of Mathematical and Computer Sciences. Mathematics educators at SDSU include Nadine Bezuk, Janet Bowers, Lisa Lamb, Joanne Lobato, Ricardo Nemirovsky, Susan Nickerson, Randolph Philipp, Chris Rasmussen, Rafaela Santa Cruz, Melissa Soto, and Bill Zahner.
4. **How many courses are required for the degree and when will I take these courses?**

   The entire program spans two years and requires a total of 30 units. We begin a new cohort of teacher every two years, beginning in Fall of even-numbered years. Teachers will take two courses each fall and spring semester, and two courses in one summer. Each course is three units and requires three hours of class time per week. Fall and Spring courses will be offered from 4:20 - 7 PM on Mondays and Thursdays, and there may be one Saturday session every semester. Summer courses will have a varied schedule but will never meet before 4 PM. Teachers may also have a few Saturday classes during the summer.

5. **I am a full-time teacher. Will I be able to complete this program?**

   We have structured the program to accommodate the schedules of full-time teachers. For example, all classes are scheduled to begin after 4:00 PM. In addition, you will be able to integrate much of the coursework into your own classroom instruction.

6. **Are there easier or faster ways to complete my Master of Arts degree in Education?**

   There are faster ways (most of which cost more money), but our program is designed to help you deeply explore the teaching and learning of mathematics so that you can make sound changes in your teaching. We are excited about the program we have put together and look forward to interacting with a cohort of thoughtful teachers.

7. **I am also considering pursuing a Master of Arts degree from the Department of Mathematical and Computer Sciences at San Diego State University. What is the difference between these two programs?**

   The Master of Arts program offered through the School of Teacher Education focuses on teaching mathematics in grades K-8. While there will be some mathematics incorporated into the program, the primary emphasis will be on how to teach and learn mathematics at the K-8 levels. This program also utilizes a cohort model so that you will work with the same students throughout the program. Your common experiences will provide you with multiple opportunities to build relationships and share expertise.

   The Master of Arts program offered through the Department of Mathematical and Computer Sciences focuses on secondary mathematics education, grades 7-14. This program has a strong mathematics component and students design an individual course of study. If you would like to find out more about the mathematics department’s program, contact Janet Bowers at jbowers@math.sdsu.edu

8. **What are tuition costs?**

   For information about tuition, registration and parking fees at San Diego State University, please check the website at [http://bfa.sdsu.edu/fm/co/sfs/registration.html](http://bfa.sdsu.edu/fm/co/sfs/registration.html).
9. Am I eligible for financial aid or scholarships?
The Financial Aid and Scholarships Office encourages students to apply. For more information, contact SDSU’s Financial Aid and Scholarship Office at 619-594-6323 or click on the link below to search for scholarship opportunities. Select Major/Credential of Educational Research, or All Programs.
https://studentaffairs.sdsu.edu/faodad/webss$scholarshipSearch Also, try http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/scholarship/index.html

10. What are the major components that are required to complete this program?
Thoughtfully complete the appropriate coursework (30 units total) and maintain your GPA in those courses to a level acceptable by program directors and university guidelines. Take and pass a required Comprehensive Examination. You will take the exam some time in your last 2 semesters of the program. Project directors will provide you with guidelines regarding the exam and will provide suggestions for studying. Complete a Master of Arts final project. You will learn about the project expectations in the two courses that are designed to support your successful completion of the project (ED 795A and ED 795B).

11. Do I have to take the GRE?
Yes, GRE scores for the general test are required, and you need to take the test before you can be admitted to the university and begin the program. Scores from previous years are acceptable. You will need to provide a copy of the scores sent to you by the Educational Testing Service (http://www.ets.org/) or request that they send official GRE scores directly to San Diego State University. The institution number for San Diego State University is 4682. The GRE is now offered on the computer, and there are test administrations regularly. You can take the exam on campus (619-594-0968) or at the Prometric Test Center at 5075 Shoreham Place, Suite 180, San Diego, CA 92122 (858-866-2120). If you took the exam in past years, you may also mail a copy of the scores to the Graduate Admissions Office. To get additional information, you can call 1-800-GRE-CALL or go to their web site at http://www.gre.org/.