

# ASACR 6

Office of the President  
April 25, 2024

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION:  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Special Education Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree, in the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education and Counselor Education, within the College of Education.

Background: The proposed degree in Arts and Teaching provides special education teachers who are hired by the state of Kentucky on a temporary professional certificate, an opportunity to obtain their MAT while simultaneously teaching during the day since classes will be offered in the evenings. At the end of their program, they will be eligible to take the Praxis II to become certified to teach students with moderate/severe disabilities or learning and behavior disorders.

This program will address a shortage of teachers in Kentucky by filling vacant positions. Special Education is one area with a critical shortage since 1990. This degree is the only program to prepare special education teachers to get their initial teaching certificate while they are teaching. The University currently offers this as a certificate-only program; changing this to a MAT will increase enrollment.

The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation. Pending approval by the Board of Trustees, the program will begin the review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

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Action taken:     Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_