Is the M.T. Program for me?
This program is designed for undergraduate students who are enrolled at the University of South Carolina-Columbia, and who are interested in a career as a teacher of science in secondary schools (grades 9-12). This program is ideal for undergraduate majors in the areas of biology, chemistry, physics, life/earth science, biology/chemistry, or chemistry/physics who want to teach high school. (Engineering Science majors may be eligible, as well! Contact your undergraduate advisor.)

What type of degree will I earn through this program?
Earn two degrees in just five years of school! Upon successful completion of the 5th Year Master of Teaching (M.T.) Degree Program you will earn:
- A Bachelor of Science degree in one of the majors listed above
- The Master of Teaching (M.T.) degree

You will then be recommended for teacher certification in secondary science.
[Note: State Certification is not recommended until after the 5th-year master's program and successful completion of State required certification exams.]

What are some other advantages of the five-year program?
- **Options.** Two degrees means more career options.
- **Money.** A teacher's salary increases by approximately $3,000/year with a Master's degree in most states.
- **Preparation.** Our students are strongly prepared in the subject area they will be teaching.
- **Experience.** Students work with children in schools during the undergraduate and graduate experience.
- **Job security.** Our college has an excellent record of placement in schools for students graduating from this program.

Which courses must I take as an undergraduate?
Coursework as an undergraduate will be specific to each student. Your advisor will help you choose your courses. Undergraduate curriculum will include specific science courses and/or engineering courses depending on your area of focus.

- You will also have to complete a **12-hour education core/cognate** within your undergraduate program with no grade below a C.
  - EDFI 300 (3 credit hours) – Schools in Communities
  - EDPY 401 (3 credit hours) – Learners and the Diversity of Learning
  - EDSE 302 (3 credit hours) – Teachers and Teaching
  - EDSE 500 (3 credit hours) – Equity and Community Engagement

- Students are required to demonstrate successful experiences with children and/or adolescents (e.g. join a professional support group or volunteer for leadership, teaching, tutoring, or mentoring with children).
Will I have to maintain a specific GPA as an undergraduate?
Yes. A minimum overall GPA of 2.75 and a minimum GPA of 2.75 in your science courses.

What must I take in the graduate program?
The graduate program coursework will be specific to each student. Meet with your secondary education M.T. advisor for assistance in figuring out your classes. Graduate courses taken without your M.T. advisor's approval may not count toward your master's degree. You will be required to complete a minimum of 39 graduate hours. A sample program of study may be found at http://www.ed.sc.edu/SA/MTPOSForms.asp

When should I begin the graduate portion of the program?
Ideally you should begin in the summer after graduation from your undergraduate science degree.

Are there any admissions requirements for the M.T. Degree Program?
- Successfully complete your undergraduate degree program including your education courses, with a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 and a minimum GPA of 2.75 in your science courses.
- Complete an application to the USC Graduate School and Science – M.T. Supplement and Professional Program Application.
- Pass the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or Miller Analogies Test (Miller).
- Successfully interview with faculty, which includes a review of transcripts, practicum experiences, and letters of recommendation from science faculty members.

The number of students admitted to the teacher education program each year depends upon the availability of resources for maintaining quality instruction. Meeting the minimum standards does not guarantee admission.

How do I apply for the M.T. Degree Program?
- During your undergraduate senior year you will begin the M.T. application process.
- If you meet all of the listed requirements above, then visit http://www.ed.sc.edu/SA/programs2/secondarymt.asp for application information.
- You may attend a group teacher education advisement and information meeting held the 1st Tuesday in October and the 4th Tuesday in March each year. Contact the Office of Student Services (803-777-6732) for time and place.

What are the application deadlines?
Submit all application materials online to USC Graduate School no later than October 15 for spring and no later than January 15 for summer or fall enrollment in the M.T. program.

What about the South Carolina Teachers Loan Program?
You may be eligible to apply for the Teachers Loan Program all five years of USC’s teacher education program. You must take and pass all three portions of the Praxis Core (computer based) as one requirement for eligibility. Students are advised to take the Praxis Core their first semester of enrollment for earliest consideration. For more information: http://www.scstudentloan.org/.
NOTE: Students who have achieved a combined score of 1650 or better on the 3 part SAT or a 24 or better on the ACT are exempt from the Praxis Core requirement.

Are there other financial aid or scholarships available?
Check out www.TeachScienceandMath.org for more information.

If you need additional information, contact the Office of Student Services at the College of Education at coestudy@mailbox.sc.edu or 803-777-6732.

Good luck as you pursue your education towards an exciting career in teaching!

Revised 1/6/2016, this document cancels all previous issues.