Jump Start Program

Louisiana College's Jump Start Program is designed to provide an opportunity to begin earning credits toward their Master of Art in Teaching while Jump Starting their teaching career.

Why should I enter the Jump Start program? The Jump Start program does two things for the candidate:

- The first thing that the Jump Start program does is allow unprecedented access to graduate credit prior to entering a licensure program. Candidates are admitted to the alternate certification (TEACH*) program only in the summer semesters. The Early Launch program allows candidates to complete a MAT a full semester earlier than others in their cohort.

- The second thing that the Jump Start program does for candidates is to assist them to navigate the very complex COMPASS teacher evaluation and Common Core Curriculum. The Jump Start program also prepares candidates for the Principles of Learning and Teaching PRAXIS exam.

How is this different than other graduate education programs in the state? Most programs, including LC's traditional MAT, require students to hold a teaching license. The Jump Start program allows candidates an opportunity to earn six (6) credit hours before they enter a licensure program. The two courses are specially designed for teachers who want to improve their professional skills and thrive in the current educational climate.

What are the requirements for admission into the Jump Start program? The Jump Start program requirements are not as stringent as the TEACH program but we continue to demand rigor and excellence in all of our candidates. Applicants are required to have a minimum GPA of 2.2. A candidate may request a transcript review if they do not have at least a 2.2 GPA. The MAT committee and the Dean of Education may waive this requirement under certain guidelines. All candidates must complete an application For Louisiana College. Although there are no PRAXIS requirements for the Jump Start program, candidates must pass all parts of the PRAXIS and meet all requirements for certification before they are eligible for a MAT degree.
Is financial aid available and how much will it cost?  Most candidates will be eligible for the TEACH grant which will cover the majority of your tuition and fees. The cost for 6 credit hours is $310 per hour or $1860. The TEACH grant will pay $1750 leaving only $110 out of pocket expense for those who qualify.

What courses should I take?  The courses are prescribed for the Jump Start candidates to ensure that the courses are supportive and do not excessively burden new teachers.

The first course is ED 503- Advanced Topics in Education: Engaging Students in Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening. This course addresses contemporary problems requiring research and reporting, or workshop situations for a teacher or group of teachers. This course will provide opportunities for current teachers to research and teach proven literacy strategies to help students become better readers, writers, speakers, and listeners.

The reading requirements are stated in Bulletin 746 as follows: To become certified in the State of Louisiana, candidates completing an alternative certification program after May 1, 2004, are required to demonstrate proficiency in the reading competencies as adopted by BESE.

The second course is ED 579-Methods of Teaching. This course is custom designed assist students to succeed using the Common Core standards and the COMPASS assessment. The course will compliment the busy, stressful lives of classroom teachers. Not only will participants learn how to cope with reforms, they will be taught strategies to thrive. The PLT PRAXIS exam will also be explored so participants can be assured of a successful first attempt.

The schedule of class meetings will be structured to deliver support to teachers in a timely, convenient way. All classes will meet on Saturdays and will be supplemented by online instruction.

*Candidates are not admitted in the TEACH program for certification unless they meet all of the requirements of that program.