

Michigan State University
Department of Teacher Education
Important Policy Changes in the MACT Program

March 1, 2007

(1) The MACT admissions review criteria, as of January 30, 2006, NO LONGER include a preference that applicants have at least one (1) year of full-time experience as a teacher.

Rationale:

- Important progress has been made in developing an induction strand within the MACT program for beginning teachers.
- There has been increasing interest in and benefits from:
 - the pre-intern MACT admission options we offer through our Study Abroad summer programs in South Africa and Australia, and
 - the post-BA/BS combined teacher certification/internship and MACT individualized programs we have fashioned, particularly for college recruitment candidates.
- The current tight job market in Michigan has increased the number of newly certified teachers for whom MA work is attractive, for both their further professional development and their improved competitive advantage in pursuing full time teaching positions.

(2) Beginning Fall 2005, the MACT program will allow a maximum of 9 credits students earned during their MSU Internship for transfer into and partial fulfillment of MACT program requirements.

Students who completed their internship during Fall 2004-Spring 2005 or earlier will still be allowed to use a maximum of 12 credits of their 800-level internship courses for partially fulfilling MACT requirements, **AS LONG AS** they complete all MACT program requirements within the five-year time limit, beginning with the first course(s) taken (i.e., TE 801 and 802).

Students who complete their internship during Fall 2005-Spring 2006 or later will be allowed to use a maximum of 9 credits of their 800-level internship courses for partially fulfilling MACT requirements, **AS LONG AS** they complete all MACT program requirements within the five-year time limit, beginning with the first course(s) taken (i.e., TE 801 and 802).

- For current and future MSU interns, the **maximum of 9 credits** of 800-level internship year courses that an advisor may approve for fulfilling MACT requirements will be **distributed among the MACT's "program blocks"** as follows:
 - **Either TE 802 or TE 804** is eligible for use in fulfilling requirements in the **"Subject Matter"** block ("Block 3").
 - **TE 801 and TE 803** are eligible for use in fulfilling requirements in the **"Electives"** block ("Block 4").

Rationale:

- MACT students who were former MSU interns will have the opportunity and greater flexibility to enroll in and benefit from more graduate-level courses in subject matter/methods and in foundational areas.
- The previous policy of allowing up to 12 credits of 800-level credits internship courses in partial fulfillment of MACT requirements meant that more than a *third* of a student's required 30 credits for the MACT degree was consumed before s/he had been admitted to this program.
- While the 800-level internship courses are intellectually sound and crucial to the purposes of MSU's pre-service teacher preparation program, post-certification MA students need more room for developing their practice as experienced teachers than has been possible under the previous policy. The new policy moves MACT students who are former MSU interns closer to the full benefits of a 30-credit masters program that students from other pre-service certification programs can reap.

(3) Beginning as soon as University governance approval is obtained, the time limit for completing the MACT degree will be extended from five years to six years. Any extensions beyond six years will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis – but effective for those admitted for Summer 2004 and after, no transfer credits or MSU Lifelong Education credits taken more than six years before the completion of a student's program can be used toward fulfilling MACT program requirements.

The six-year time period for the completion of MACT requirements will be determined by the date of enrollment in the first course included for degree certification. This includes the Lifelong Education credits students earned during the internship year, any other Lifelong Education credits earned by non-MSU interns, and transfer credits earned at other universities.

Rationale:

- Increasing the time limit for program completion will allow student more time and flexibility to pursue and complete their MACT coursework while working full-time as teachers.
- This extension will allow students to acquire more teaching experience prior to beginning the program, and thus to derive more benefit from a program that is designed for experienced teachers.
- A six-year time period will reduce the current larger number of individual requests for time extensions.
- Not allowing Life-Long Education and transfer credit courses to be more than 6 years old helps to ensure program integrity.

(4) For students admitted to the program for Summer 2004 and after, there will be limits on the number of courses taken outside the time the student is in the program (including, but not limited to, transfer courses from other universities and MSU Lifelong Education (LG) and Graduate Certificate (GC) credits) that an advisor will be allowed to consider for application to MACT requirements.

Any application to MACT requirements of MSU Lifelong Education credits or transfer credits from other universities or other non-MACT courses is at the discretion of the student's advisor, who uses criteria formulated by the MACT program committee, within the bounds of the more specific policies as listed below. These decisions cannot be made, nor any assurances given, prior to a student's admission to the program and assignment to an advisor. More specifically:

- For students who completed the MSU Internship program, transfer credits from another university will NOT be permitted to apply to MACT program requirements.
- As indicated in (2) above, students who completed their internship during Fall 2004-Spring 2005 (or earlier) will be allowed to use a maximum of 12 credits earned from their 800-level internship courses; students who complete their internship during Fall 2005-Spring 2006 (or later) will be allowed to use a maximum of 9 credits earned from their 800-level internship courses. All former interns will be allowed to use three additional "Graduate Certificate" (GC) credits taken before admission to the program, but only if those GC credits were earned in the MACT program's new 1-credit online module courses.
- For students who were not in the MSU Internship program, a maximum of 10 credits from a COMBINATION of MSU Lifelong Education courses, MSU Graduate Certification courses, and courses from another university may be considered by the student's advisor for application to MACT program requirements.

Rationale:

- The integrity of the MACT program and the value that students may derive from it depend on maximizing the MSU course work that students take after being admitted to the program and with the guidance and approval of their advisor.

(5) MACT students admitted for Fall 2003 and after must take the program's four required core courses in sequence according to the following prerequisites: TE 807 is a prerequisite for TE 808, and TE 807, TE 808, and TE 818 are prerequisites for TE 870/872.

This means that TE 807 and TE 808 CANNOT be taken simultaneously, nor can TE 807, TE 808, and/or TE 818 be taken simultaneously with TE 870/872. It therefore takes a minimum of three semesters to complete the program.

Rationale:

- The MACT program is a graduate program of study with a coherent set of core courses designed and sequenced to achieve specific goals and professional standards that are appropriate for graduate-level inquiry and for practicing professionals.

(6) MACT students need to enroll in courses much earlier than many have done in the past.

Cancellation decisions will be made at least 4 weeks, and preferably 6-8 weeks, prior to the beginning of the semester. It is possible for students to arrange to pay their tuition bills in installments over time.

Rationale:

- Due to the severe budget constraints of recent years, the Department can no longer not afford to offer courses with low enrollments, and delays in making decisions to cancel low-enrolled courses make it very difficult to arrange alternative assignments for faculty and to find alternative courses for students.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Doug Campbell (Coordinator, MACT Program), at campbell@msu.edu or (517) 449-1849.