



Graduate Studies in Education

The degrees offered through the School of Education at Aquinas College reflect the belief that teaching is more than a career choice; it is both a gift and a mission. Students are prepared to be teachers of the Truth, thus enabling them to bring the message of salvation to bear on ethical, social, political, religious, and cultural issues in a variety of public, private, and parochial school settings.

Master of Education in Teaching and Learning

The Master of Education in Teaching and Learning (M.Ed.) is for individuals who presently hold a degree and/or license in teaching and who would like to pursue an advanced degree.

Master of Arts in Teaching

The Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) is designed for individuals who hold an undergraduate degree in a discipline outside of education, but would like to pursue a career in teaching at the elementary or secondary level.

Additional Admissions Requirements

1. Proof of a Teaching Certificate (M.Ed.)
2. Two page essay—the topics are included in this packet
3. One additional writing sample
4. Current resume
5. Two (2) recommendation forms: one recommendation must be from an administrator, college supervisor, or former employer, the other recommendation must be from a professional colleague or a former teacher who can evaluate applicant's potential for success in a graduate program
6. An interview with the Dean of the School of Education
7. Criminal background and fingerprint checks
8. Submit passing scores for the Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core) Tests (Praxis code- 1042) <https://www.ets.org/praxis/tn/requirements/> OR qualifying, official ACT or SAT scores

Criteria for ACT/SAT scores: taken within the last 10 years, ACT composite score of 22 or higher, or SAT score of 1020 (Critical Reading and Math) or higher

Additionally, applicants whose native language is not English, must submit a TOEFL test score of at least 600 (paper-based), or 250 (computer-based), or 100 (Internet-based). If transcripts come from an international institution, you must provide 2 official copies of a third party course by course credential evaluation. World Education Services (www.wes.org) offers this service.

Essay for Graduate Students

Select one of the following six topics and compose an essay with maximum length of two pages. Submit your essay along with the completed application for admission to the Admissions Office.

1. Reflectively consider the following quotation:

“The life that comes from the fullness of contemplation, such as teaching and preaching, is more excellent than simply contemplating God. Just as it is better to enlighten others than merely to shine, it is better to give the fruits of our contemplation to others than merely to contemplate.”

—Saint Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* II-II, 188, 6

In light of this quotation, why are you choosing the program of graduate study at Aquinas College?

2. The Aquinas College School of Education reflects the belief that teaching is more than a career choice—it is both a gift and a mission.

Please explain how your desire to pursue a Master’s degree in education at Aquinas College resonates with this belief.

3. What does the following statement mean to you as you consider continuing your education at Aquinas College?

“The outstanding human and Christian qualities in teachers will be able to do more to produce successes than will the methods selected.”

4. In the Prologue of *The Canterbury Tales*, The Clerk’s description ends with the statement, “And gladly would he learn and gladly teach.”

Why do you want to return to school to receive a Master of Education or Master of Arts in Teaching degree? How will taking time to study about education help you to fulfill your goals?

5. What did C.S. Lewis mean when he wrote, “The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts.”

Describe the role that you hope to fulfill as an educator in the future.

6. G.K. Chesterson once wrote, “Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another.”

How would you like to participate in this process?



Recommendation Form

M.A.T. (Elementary), M.A.T. (Secondary), M.Ed. in Teaching and Learning

APPLICANT: Fill in the information requested below and forward one form with a stamped envelope addressed to the Admissions Office, 4210 Harding Road, Nashville, TN 37205, to each respondent. Under the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, you have the right—if you enroll at Aquinas College—to review your educational records. The Act further provides that you may waive your right of access to see recommendations for admission. By signing below, you waive any right of access that you may have to this recommendation form.

Two recommendations are required with your application, one of which must be completed by an administrator, college supervisor, or former employer.

Name of Applicant _____

Signature _____ Date _____

RESPONDENT: The individual whose name appears above is applying for admission to the Aquinas College Graduate Education Program. Evaluations of the applicant's potential are required as part of the application procedure and this individual requests that you write on his/her behalf. A standard format is provided for your use, but you may choose to attach a letter along with the form. It would be appreciated if you would respond as early as possible so that consideration of the application will not be delayed.

Name of Respondent _____ Title _____

Institution or Agency _____

Rate the applicant in the areas indicated below by checking 4-Outstanding, 3-Above Average, 2-Satisfactory, 1-Below Average.

Skill	4	3	2	1	No Comment
Intellectual Ability					
Critical Thinking Ability					
Problem Solving Ability					
Ability or Promise as a Leader					
Quality of Oral Communication					
Quality of Written Communication					
Motivation and Energy					
Organizational Ability					
Sense of Humor					
Emotional Maturity					
Ability to Meet Deadlines					
Ability to Work with Others					
Ability to Improve Student Achievement					
Professional Integrity					



SCHOOL OF
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How long have you known the candidate and in what capacity?

From the opposite side of this form, choose one or two of the candidate's outstanding characteristics and explain your rating.

From the opposite side of this form, choose the one area in which you think the candidate needs improvement and explain.

Identify at least two instances in which you have seen this candidate lead/guide/direct a group or a project and describe your assessment of the outcome of his/her efforts.

Indicate the strength of your overall endorsement of the applicant.

- Highly recommended Recommended Recommended with reservations Not recommended

A faculty member from Aquinas College Graduate Education Program may contact you via phone for further information. If you agree to such a conversation, please list your preferred phone number and indicate the best time to call.

Phone _____ Best time to call: Morning Afternoon Evening

Respondent's Signature _____ Date _____