

# Best Practices:

Academic Requirements  
and Evidence of Exemplary  
STEM Teacher Education  
Programs

January 29-30, 2010

Quality Education for Minorities  
Robert Noyce Teacher  
Scholarship Program

# *Clark Atlanta University*

## **Mathematics Scholars Program For Teachers (MSPT)**

### **About Clark Atlanta University**

- Historically Black College and University
- A part of the Atlanta University Center
- Located in metropolitan Atlanta
- Approximately 4500 students

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# *Clark Atlanta University*

## **Mathematics Scholars Program For Teachers (MSPT)**

### About the MSPT

- **STEM Senior Track**

Rising seniors or seniors majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) field with strong mathematics backgrounds

- **STEM Professional Track**

Graduates holding a BS, BS/MS, BS/MST, MS, or PhD degree in a STEM field

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## **Mathematics Scholars Program For Teachers (MSPT)**

### **Academic Requirements of the MSPT**

- Minimum 2.6 cumulative GPA
- Must submit GRE scores
- Must be a STEM major
- Must complete undergraduate degree in STEM area and immediately begin Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Mathematics degree program upon graduation
- Maintain a 3.0 GPA during matriculation in MAT degree
- Must pass the state teacher certification exam (GACE Basic Skills) before being admitted into the MAT
- Must satisfactorily complete letter of intent and essay about “Why I Want to Be a Teacher.”

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## **Mathematics Scholars Program For Teachers (MSPT)**

### **Academic Requirements of the MSPT (cont.)**

- Must pass comprehensive examination
- Must pass GACE content exam before internship
- Must “meet expectations” on the internship assessment
- Must satisfactorily complete action research project
- Must satisfactorily complete an electronic portfolio for the internship

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## **Mathematics Scholars Program For Teachers (MSPT)**

### **Salient Points of the MAT**

- Accredited by NCATE and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission
- May be financed with the Robert Noyce Scholarship and the Georgia HOPE Scholarship Loan
- Technology infused throughout the curriculum
- Divided into three components: (a) Research, Evaluation, and Pedagogical Practices, (b) Customized Advanced Content, and (c) In-Field Action Research

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## **Mathematics Scholars Program For Teachers (MSPT)**

### **Salient Points of the MAT (cont.)**

- Standards Based Curriculum (NCTM, NCATE, GPS, INTASC)
- Integrates classroom management, instructional strategies and learning styles for a diverse population
- Students are required to do action research
- Students are required to do clinical experiences in high needs schools (8 wks middle school and 8 weeks high school)
- Requires 5 graduate level courses in mathematics
- Designed for initial teaching certification at the T-5 level
- Opportunities for student presentations (SOE conference, Noyce regional and national conference)

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# *Lessons Learned*

- Difficult to find students with higher GPAs in mathematics
- Students need a better conceptual understanding of the mathematics content
- Oftentimes students with STEM with majors other than math or whose degrees are not recent find graduate math courses difficult
- Students need more classroom management skills
- Students need more field experiences

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*Thank You !!*

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# Questions ?

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