Please join us in a partnership. You can benefit by hiring a teacher with transitional B certification. New York state offers alternative teacher preparation programs that lead to a three-year teaching certificate.

Our students want to bring their talents to your classrooms. They may have been lawyers, worked in the U.N., or taught Spanish in Ecuador. Some have been filmmakers or have Ph.D.s in fields like chemistry or physics. Transitional B certification enables us to partner with you to help these exceptional adults join the ranks of New York state’s distinguished teachers.

When you hire a teacher with transitional B certification, you also allow SUNY Empire State College to bring its resources into your school. Our students have access to college materials, technology and support while they teach for you. Our faculty will mentor your new teacher for the first year of employment as a minimum.

To be admitted into the Empire State College MAT, all candidates must have earned a minimum of a bachelor’s degree in math, science, Spanish, English or social studies-related fields. They have completed at least 12 credits of master’s-level education courses and 50 hours of fieldwork. As adult learners, our candidates have the maturity, commitment and work experience needed to enrich student learning and become valuable contributors to their profession.
“We awarded tenure to an outstanding Empire State College graduate, Maggi Ackert. This young lady earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degree from Empire State College. She is a phenomenal teacher of Spanish, loves kids, and came to us exceptionally well prepared. I hope you can send us more students like this.”

– Roy Reese
Superintendent of Schools
Goshen Central School District

Maggi Ackert

Maggi Ackert teaches Spanish language and culture. The Poughkeepsie resident taught both Spanish and English as a second language in Ecuador for 13 years when she decided to forge a career path into the New York public schools.

Today, she is a tenured Spanish teacher in the C.J. Hooker Middle School in Goshen. Experience, as well as study, has expanded Ackert’s repertoire as a teacher. Her students enjoy Latin cuisine, singing and salsa dancing; she is the advisor to the Spanish Dancing Club and co-advisor of the Hispanic Leadership Club.

About her experience with Empire State College, Ackert says that “every one of my teachers and mentors has contributed to my success. The MAT is a great program, well designed and organized around busy adults with full-time jobs and families.”

Maggi Ackert ’09
Is a transitional B candidate certified?

Yes. Immediately after a candidate is hired to teach, Empire State College recommends the candidate to the New York State Education Department for full certification in the form of a transitional B certificate (see below).

Transitional B candidates are qualified

Students in the MAT program who are eligible for transitional B certification have completed:

• 30 credits in their content area and 30 credits of New York state general education requirements
• a bachelor’s (or more advanced) degree from an accredited public or private college
• 12 (or more) credits of master’s-level course work
• 50 (or more) hours of fieldwork
• examinations
  – Content Specialty Test (CST)
  – Educating All Students (EAS)
• workshops
  – School violence
  – Child abuse and prevention
  – DASA training
• fingerprinting and criminal history background check

These transitional B-certified teachers are:

• actively enrolled in the MAT program
• maintaining a 3.0 (or above) GPA in the MAT program
• continuously employed in an approved teaching position
• mentored by the school district and college faculty
**Does the State Education Department view transitional B certification as equivalent to initial certification?**

**Yes.** The Transitional B certificate is valid for three years, and is not an emergency or provisional license.

**Certification Areas**

The Empire State College Master of Arts in Teaching program leads to certification in the following areas at the middle childhood and adolescent levels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biology</th>
<th>Earth Science</th>
<th>Social Studies</th>
<th>General Science (Grades 5-9) Extension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Transitional B**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>The first-level teaching certificate issued to a school district to permit the employment of an individual who is enrolled in an alternative teacher certification program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Validity</td>
<td>Full three-year certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leads to</td>
<td>Either the initial or professional certificate, depending on years of teaching experience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details about transitional B certification are on the NYS Office of Teaching Initiatives website: [www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/). The school district can view the recommendation through the NYS Office of Teaching Initiatives online system, TEACH.
Partnership and Mentoring

Long-term Empire State College support
When you hire a new teacher with transitional B certification, Empire State College faculty will support that teacher in the classroom for the first year of employment as a minimum. Our faculty specializes in urban education and works with new teachers in diverse settings across the state. Faculty from Empire State College and master teachers from districts statewide visit new teachers at least once a month while they are employed on a transitional B certificate. In addition, Empire State College students hired by your district have access to university resources, participate in mentored teaching course work, and have a peer network of new teachers.

School district mentoring
SUNY Empire State College also partners with the district to ensure that our students receive the guidance of experienced educators in each school. As part of the district’s first-year teacher mentoring program, the school district provides daily mentoring for the first eight weeks of employment, with a certified teacher serving as a mentor. For the remainder of the school year, the mentor and student continue to meet on an agreed-upon schedule appropriate for this second phase.

The partnership is designed to enrich both our MAT student who is striving for excellence, and the school, which benefits from Empire State College faculty mentoring and resources.

“We partner with school districts across New York state. It is a privilege to serve the children in New York’s schools and to learn with school administrators how to prepare and retain excellent teachers.”

– Tina Wagle faculty member MAT Program
**Empire State College/District Partnership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partnership</th>
<th>Empire State College partners with the employing school to ensure support for the new teacher. Transitional B certified teachers continue to take course work toward an MAT degree and are mentored in conjunction with the district.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District Mentoring</td>
<td>Daily mentoring is provided by certified school personnel during the first eight weeks of teaching, and on a schedule agreed to by the district, teacher and college thereafter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Mentoring</td>
<td>Observation and advisement are provided by program faculty at least once a month during the first year of teaching.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Students

Mary Courtney

When Mary Courtney ‘09 talks to her students about chemistry, they are getting a world of information. The Rochester City School District high school chemistry and earth science teacher has worked in Canada with the United Nations and in Brazil, Colombia and Mexico as an expert on environmental issues. After 20 years in the field, Courtney turned to another goal – teaching. “These experiences helped me truly understand the practical applications of chemistry, which allows me to offer many examples in my classroom.”

Bringing her exceptional proficiencies and natural desire to nurture into the classroom, Courtney immediately proved her mettle. After one year, she won the Rochester City School District First-Year Teacher of the Year award.

“I find it rewarding to see struggling students make a new connection or achieve a milestone and see their pride as they become more self-confident.”

Andrew Davis

Andrew Davis ‘10 earned a degree in English and worked as an employment counselor for individuals with disabilities. “I came to the classroom with skills I learned working with clients. I had to sell to them that they could succeed, that they were qualified. Fifty percent of my job was helping people to believe in themselves, which translates into what I do as an eighth-grade English teacher today in a high-need district.” He is a teacher in Mount Pleasant School in Schenectady.

“The MAT program allowed me to transition into teaching with experiences that traditional new teachers – 21 and fresh out of college – don’t have. The program and its students are not run-of-the-mill. Our stories, life experiences and knowledge gained prior to entering our classrooms give us an advantage – and are advantageous to our students.”

Andrew Davis ‘10
“The emphasis on technology, current pedagogical trends and academic rigor kept me challenged.”

– Brian Rhodes

**Brian Rhodes**

Brian Rhodes ’11 teaches ninth grade earth science and general science to students in the Schenectady School District. With a Bachelor of Science in geology from the University at Albany, his love of the outdoors as a hiker, backpacker, rock climber and canoeist enlivens his teaching with lifelong experience. He chose SUNY Empire State College for his MAT. “It offered the flexibility I needed during the first year of graduate school to keep my full-time job and pursue studies. The emphasis on technology, current pedagogical trends and academic rigor kept me challenged.”

The career is the right one for Rhodes. He believes students in the MAT program see that “they are able to make an immediate difference in the lives of their students and school communities.” Rhodes is gratified with his career choice and identifies with his teaching colleagues, who, like him, “became educators for a specific reason – it is our calling.”

**Carmen Robles**

A Spanish teacher in the Buffalo City School District seventh and eighth grades, Carmen Robles ’09 started the MAT program while working in human services. She chose Empire State College because it was “the fastest track to the classroom.” Her background as a case worker was an important foundation for her current role. “I am capable of helping my students emotionally, as well as academically. I have learned how to listen to people, and, because of that, I am more patient and objective. The teachers I work with are understanding and knowledgeable in their fields. I take their examples into my own teaching and find it to be very effective and rewarding.”
SUNY Empire State College Master of Arts in Teaching Contacts

For more information

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Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC)
The Empire State College Master of Arts in Teaching program was granted accreditation by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council for a period of seven years, from June 11, 2012-June 11, 2019. This accreditation certifies that the forenamed professional education program has provided evidence that the program adheres to TEAC’s quality principles.
Empire State College is the largest of the 13 comprehensive colleges in the State University of New York, awarding associate, bachelor’s and master’s degrees. The college is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.