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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE NEW MAT@USC, A MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING DELIVERED ONLINE

USC is the first elite private research university to offer a Master of Arts in Teaching degree through the convenience and accessibility of online learning

LOS ANGELES, CA (January 26, 2009) – The University of Southern California (USC) and its prestigious Rossier School of Education today announced that inaugural enrollment is open for the MAT@USC program, the country's first Master of Arts in Teaching degree delivered online from a major research university. USC is actively accepting applications for the first MAT@USC cohort, which begins in June of 2009.

MAT@USC combines online learning with carefully selected field-based experiences, and provides ongoing support for new teachers including job placement assistance and significant tuition reimbursement opportunities. The program can be completed in as little as one year on a full-time basis or can be spread over two to three years part-time. Students may complete the online program from anywhere in the country.

The USC Rossier School has redesigned its proven curriculum and customized it for the e-learning environment, which includes the integration of interactive lectures using streaming video, animation, and Web 2.0 technologies. Taught by full-time USC faculty, the program is organized into a conceptual framework based on the theories of learning and combines online coursework with student teaching at selected K-12 schools.

"We are excited to welcome students from all over the country into MAT@USC, an online masters program of unprecedented quality in higher education," said USC Rossier School of Education Dean Karen Symms Gallagher. "For the first time ever, students will be able to achieve a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from a highly-respected school like USC without having to relocate to Southern California. Through the quality, convenience and accessibility of this online program, we are committed to producing many more qualified, rigorously-trained teachers who will effect real change in high-need school districts."

Comprehensive student support services will be offered to all MAT@USC candidates from program application through coursework and school placements to job opportunities and career advancement, unlike any other program in the country. In addition to offering the availability of counselors and staff up to 16 hours a day, the program will unobtrusively monitor candidate performance on a variety of metrics to alert faculty of any difficulties in mastering coursework.

Opportunities for partial tuition reimbursement exist for MAT@USC graduates who commit to teaching in high-need school districts for five years. Tuition for MAT@USC is the same as the USC on-campus program and students in the program are true USC students who can do everything from access the libraries to walk at commencement with a degree that is identical to an on-campus degree.

MAT@USC is the country's first and only online Master of Arts in Teaching program that will have the capability to train and prepare candidates who are new to the teaching profession. MAT@USC allows students to obtain a California teaching credential, and will assist candidates in transferring to local certification. Additionally, current teachers can take advantage of the MAT@USC, utilizing the dynamic, online program to improve their skills. The MAT@USC is also an excellent complement to MAE (Masters of Arts in Education) programs.

Upon successful completion of the MAT@USC coursework with academic standards met and graduation requirements fulfilled, students will receive a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from the USC Rossier School of Education.

Interested candidates should visit <http://rossier.usc.edu/mat/> or call 1-888-628-1872 to begin the application process. MAT@USC candidates should have a target undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 (on a scale in which A = 4.0).

About the USC Rossier School of Education

As part of the University of Southern California and located in the heart of urban Los Angeles, the USC Rossier (ross-EAR) School of Education is one of the world's premiere centers for the study of urban education, preparing teachers and educational leaders who are committed to strengthening urban education locally, nationally and globally. USC Rossier is leading the search for innovative solutions to the challenges in urban education, and creating mutually beneficial partnerships to rethink curricula, develop sound policy and improve educational environments. (<http://rossier.usc.edu>)

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