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James J Madden* (madden@math.lsu.edu), 222 Prescott Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, and **Frank Neubrandner** and **Guillermo Ferreyra**. *The Masters of Natural Sciences Degree Program at Louisiana State University*. Preliminary report.

The Master of Natural Sciences (MNS) degree is administered by the LSU Graduate School in conjunction with the LSU College of Science. According to the graduate bulletin, the program “provides the depth and breadth of study in the sciences that is required of science professionals and school teachers.” Since 2007, the LSU Departments of Mathematics, Physics and Biology have cooperation with the LSU Cain Center for STEM Literacy to offer specialized course work for secondary teachers, and over 100 teachers have earned the degree. All candidates produce a thesis that is required to be an “evidence-based contribution to the professional knowledge of STEM teachers.” Between 2009 and the present, candidates were supported by an NSF MSP Institute grant. In this talk, we will describe the content of the mathematics track and relate what is known about impacts on the professional practice of teachers. (Received September 22, 2015)