Department of Middle, Secondary and Mathematics Education

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Middle Education
Grades Six Through Eight

Master’s Level Licensure Program
The undergraduate pre-professional program in middle education is designed to prepare teachers of grades 6-8. This program provides the requisite course offerings and experiences that form the foundation for admission to the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program. The JMU middle education program is based on the following four assumptions:

- Classroom teachers should possess a broad liberal education that provides a context for understanding individual behavior and major social issues in a contemporary democratic and technological society.
- Middle level classroom teachers should possess extensive knowledge and expertise in the content areas in which they teach and understand essential interdisciplinary concepts related to the respective content areas.
- Middle level classroom teachers must have extensive professional knowledge and be able to practice and demonstrate teaching skills that are effective and appropriate for students between the ages of 10 and 14.
- Middle level classroom teachers must have strong problem-solving skills, must be reflective in professional thought and practice, and must be ethically, morally and professionally responsible.

Teacher candidates must meet a set of content and subject-specific criteria that are approved by the Virginia Department of Education. In some states, middle grade teachers must meet minimum preparation requirements in two of the four core subject areas (mathematics, social studies/history, science, English/language arts). In order to meet these requirements, candidates are advised to major in Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies, a major that will allow them to complete dual content concentrations as well as meet the necessary subject-matter competencies.

The IDLS major is assigned two advisers. One adviser is the adviser for the education pre-professional licensure program who will guide the student through the licensure program requirements.

The other adviser is the IDLS adviser who will guide the student through the IDLS major requirements. Students should plan on consulting both advisers regularly. Typically, the education adviser is assigned when the student meets with the head of his or her licensure program and elects the licensure program. This may be as early as the first semester of the first year. The IDLS adviser is assigned when the first year student advising folders are transferred to the IDLS office (second semester, first year). Students are required to check with advisers regularly to ensure timely graduation.

The middle education program enables teacher candidates to become knowledgeable about the developmental characteristics of middle school students, and to create, design, and implement curriculum activities that are interdisciplinary in nature and related directly to the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual needs of children between the ages of 10 and 14.

Candidates should consult with the department head or an adviser in middle education early during the first year or as soon thereafter as possible to obtain information concerning the requirements for admission to teacher education. Candidates should contact the IDLS director for the general education requirements for the IDLS major. Candidates should note that they must be fully admitted to teacher education prior to registering for the courses included in the pre-professional middle education program. Candidates should also note that actual requirements may differ from the catalog requirements listed because of changes enacted by the Virginia Department of Education or other accrediting agencies after the catalog copy is approved. Therefore, it is especially important for candidates to confer with education advisers on a regular basis.

It is important for candidates to understand that they must meet the requirements for a baccalaureate degree and successfully complete all undergraduate pre-professional courses and experiences prior to being admitted to the M.A.T. program. Candidates must earn a grade of “C” or better in all required pre-professional undergraduate courses in the education program to continue in and complete the pre-professional program. Consult the graduate catalog for M.A.T. graduate requirements. Admission to and satisfactory completion of the M.A.T. program are required for a recommendation from James Madison University for licensure in middle grades education.
Completion of the five-year professional program in middle education is designed to lead to a Virginia teaching license with an endorsement in middle education. To be recommended for licensure, all candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Complete General Education and IDLS requirements
- Complete the middle education pre-professional program
- Meet all admission and retention criteria for teacher education including satisfactory Praxis I & II scores
- Meet admission requirements for the middle education M.A.T. program
- Complete the graduate portion of the licensure program
- Meet performance and behavior standards as indicated by ratings on the program Professional Behaviors Checklist

it is expected that candidates will complete the graduate admission process early in their senior year. In addition, candidates must meet all graduate level graduation requirements (culminating teaching project, etc.). See the Graduate Catalog for additional details.

### Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 540</td>
<td>Educational Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXED 512</td>
<td>Behavior Management in the Classroom</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIED 610</td>
<td>Collaborative Leadership in Schools</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIED 620</td>
<td>Assessment in Middle Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSSE 630</td>
<td>Inquiry in the Classroom</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIED 656</td>
<td>Seminar in Middle Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSSE 690</td>
<td>Internship in Middle Education</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSSE 650</td>
<td>Internship Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved graduate-level elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Recommended Schedule for Middle Education

**Undergraduate Course Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GPSCY 160</td>
<td>Life Span Human Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 360</td>
<td>Foundations of American Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students must declare the middle education pre-professional licensure program and be fully admitted into teacher education prior to enrolling in the remaining courses. Contact the departmental office to determine the requirements for admission to teacher education. The first three courses listed are corequisite offerings and must be completed before enrolling in the next two courses which are also corequisites. EDUC 310. Teaching in a Diverse Society</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**M.A.T. Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSSE 470M</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSSE 470S</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSSE 470E</td>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSSE 470H</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSSE 470S</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSSE 470M</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSSE 471</td>
<td>Content Area Field Experience in Middle Schools</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXED 460</td>
<td>Differentiation of Instruction and Academic Collaboration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The General Education program contains a set of requirements each student must fulfill. The number of credit hours necessary to fulfill these requirements may vary.

**Secondary Education Grades Six through Twelve**

**Master’s Level Licensure Program**

The undergraduate program in Secondary Education is designed to provide candidates with the prerequisite course offerings and experiences that form the required foundation for admission to the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program. Completion of the M.A.T. program is required for a recommendation for licensure in secondary education through JMU. Undergraduate candidates who are planning to pursue licensure to teach in an academic area at the secondary school level should complete the 22 credit hour pre-professional program in education.

Candidates should also complete a major or the equivalent in one of the arts and sciences disciplines closely associated with the desired teaching area. The state approved licensure areas in the secondary education program at JMU include English, foreign languages, mathematics, the natural sciences, and social studies. Foreign language is a PreK-12 licensure area that is based in Secondary Education. Licensure endorsements for other teaching areas (e.g., algebra, journalism, and English as a second language) are available as add-on programs. Candidates should contact the departmental office for information concerning those programs.

Candidates should consult with the department head or an adviser in secondary education early during the first year or as soon thereafter as possible to obtain information concerning completing the related general education and content area requirements, as well as the undergraduate and graduate education requirements.

The secondary education licensure program is an integrated program of undergraduate and graduate requirements and experiences. It is important for candidates to understand that they must meet the requirements for a baccalaureate degree and that the appropriate undergraduate pre-professional courses and experiences must be completed satisfactorily before they will be admitted to the M.A.T. program.

Candidates must earn a grade of “C” or better in all required pre-professional undergraduate courses in the education program and at least a “C-” in content course work to continue in and complete the pre-professional program. Consult the graduate catalog for M.A.T. graduate requirements. Admission to and the satisfactory completion of the M.A.T. program are required in order to receive a recommendation through JMU for a teaching license at the secondary school level.

1 Prior to or during enrollment in MSSE 370, candidates will be required to complete a 20-hour mentoring project.
2 Choose practicum to correlate with the two content 470 courses. Students complete course twice in appropriate content for a total of six credit hours.

**Degree and Major Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree and Major Requirements</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B.A./B.S. Undergraduate Degree</td>
<td>Credit Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies Major</td>
<td>36-42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Professional Studies in Education</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.A.T. Program</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Level Professional Studies</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies Major</td>
<td>36-42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Professional Studies in Education</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.A.T. Program</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Level Professional Studies</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

150-156

1 The General Education program contains a set of requirements each student must fulfill. The number of credit hours necessary to fulfill these requirements may vary.

2 Choose practicum to correlate with the two content 470 courses. Students complete course twice in appropriate content for a total of six credit hours.

**Graduate Courses**

Candidates beginning the graduate portion of the program must meet all graduate school requirements and criteria for admission (e.g., 2.7 or higher GPA, passing Praxis II scores);
Candidates should note that they must be fully admitted to teacher education prior to registering for courses in the pre-professional secondary education program. Candidates should also note that actual teacher licensure requirements may differ from the catalog requirements listed for a program because of changes enacted by the Virginia Department of Education or accrediting agencies after the catalog copy is approved. Therefore, it is important for students to confer with their education advisers on a regular basis.

The program in secondary education, including the undergraduate component and the M.A.T., is designed to prepare teachers who are reflective decision-makers. Teachers who are reflective decision-makers are able to choose from among known educational alternatives to maximize student learning in a variety of instructional situations.

### Recommended Schedule for Secondary Education

The requirements listed below comprise the pre-professional (undergraduate) education program in secondary education. The courses listed must be satisfactorily completed prior to full admission to teacher education and to the graduate M.A.T. program.

Requirements should be completed in the following sequence:

**First Year**
- MSSE 101. Orientation to the Profession (optional) 2
- Second Year
  - GPSYC 160. Life Span Human Development 3
  - EDUC 360. Foundations of American Education 3

**Second Year**

**Third and/or Fourth Years**

1. Prior to or during enrollment in MSSE 370, candidates will be required to complete a 20-hour mentoring project.

**Graduate Courses**

Before beginning the graduate portion of the professional program, candidates must meet all criteria for admission to teacher education and for admission to the Graduate School (e.g., 2.7 or higher GPA, passing Praxis II scores). Candidates are expected to complete the admission processes early in their senior year. Candidates must meet all additional requirements of the program and the Graduate School before completing the program. See the Graduate Catalog for additional information. The following courses are required for completion of the graduate portion of the licensure program in secondary education.

- **MSSE 607. Middle and Secondary School Curriculum and Co-Curriculum** 3
- **MSSE 625. Assessment in Secondary Education** 3
- **EDUC 540. Educational Technology** 3
- **EXED 512. Behavior Management in the Classroom** 3
- **MSSE 630. Inquiry in Education** 3
- **EXED 520. Differentiation of Instruction and Academic Collaboration** 3
- **MSSE 570. Content Methods Course for High School** 3
- **MSSE 571. Content Area Field Experience in High School** 3
- **MSSE 675. Internship in Middle and Secondary Education** 3
- **MSSE 650. Internship Seminar** 3

**Foreign Language Education**

**PreK-12**

The licensure program in foreign languages is based in the secondary education program, but it leads to a PreK-12 license.

The foreign language program differs from the secondary (6-12) programs in that licensure candidates must take MSSE 570F, Methods of Language Teaching, and their practicum, MSSE 571F, must include field experiences at the elementary (PreK-6) school level. The content of MSSE 570F includes coverage of teaching foreign language methods for elementary school children as well as teaching foreign language to middle and high school students.

The required practicum experiences include observations and teaching experiences across the PreK-12 grade levels. Candidates seeking foreign language certification are required to complete 22 credits of pre-professional studies in education at the undergraduate level and 35 credits in professional studies at the graduate level. Foreign language candidates register for EDUC 675M and EDUC 675S, Internships.

**Program Advising**

First year candidates planning to become teachers in secondary schools are advised to enroll in MSSE 101, Orientation to the Profession. Candidates should contact an education adviser concerning job opportunities in the various secondary subject areas, proper sequence of education courses, practicum opportunities in local secondary schools and special programs. By consulting regularly with their program adviser in secondary education, candidates can continually evaluate their academic objectives.

**Vocational Education Courses**

For persons employed by school divisions, to teach in vocational programs, the following courses are available and can be used by trade and industrial education teachers to upgrade their provisional license to the technical professional teaching license.

- **GPSYC 160. Life Span Human Development** 3
- **EDUC 490. Special Topics in Education** 3
- **VOED 383. Curriculum and Instructional Procedures in VOED** 3

http://www.jmu.edu/catalog/10