

B.S. in Middle Grades Education

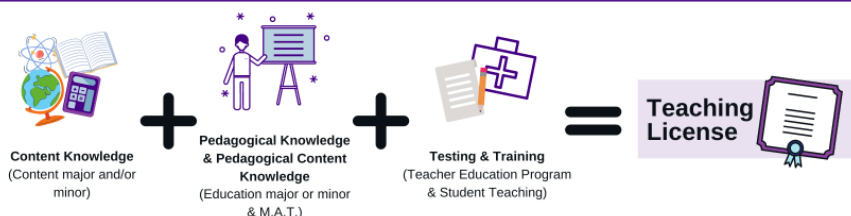
Program Overview

Catalog Year 2024-2025

This Virginia Department of Education-approved Middle Grades Education undergraduate-only program prepares individuals for eligibility for an initial teaching license in grades 6-8. This major-minor program in Middle Grades Education is designed to provide candidates with the course offerings and experiences that form the required foundation for recommendation to the Virginia Department of Education for a Virginia teaching license.

In order to be eligible for a teaching license, candidates must show mastery of certain competencies and certification of various trainings. The requirements can be summarized by the equation illustrated to the right. Only when a candidate satisfies each of the three requirement areas are they then eligible for their teaching license.

Understand the Steps to a Teaching License



Content Knowledge
(Content major and/or minor)

Content Knowledge

In this major-minor program, candidates meet the “Content Knowledge” requirement by minoring in one of our four Virginia Department of Education-approved teacher **licensure areas**. Candidates are required to choose one of the licensure content area minors listed below but are encouraged to meet requirements for two. See the Endorsement Checklists on the MSME website for more information about courses:

- English minor
- Social Studies minor
- Mathematics for Elementary and Middle Grades Teachers minor
- Middle Grades Science minor

Add-On Endorsements and non-Licensure Minors

Customize your academic experience with an add-on endorsement or minor. Below are some recommended programs:

ADD-ON ENDORSEMENTS: Algebra 1

MINORS: Coaching Education
Educational Media
Human Resource Development

Military Leadership
Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

College of Education Department of Middle, Secondary, and Mathematics Education

Memorial Hall, 395 S. High Street, Room 3200, MSC 6912 Harrisonburg, VA 22807 | (540) 568-6486 | <https://www.jmu.edu/coe/msme/>

This document is provided as an advising resource only. Official curriculum requirements are listed in the JMU Undergraduate Catalog. In the case of discrepancies, the University Catalog is the official curriculum students must follow. This document was reviewed by the Middle, Secondary, and Mathematics Education Academic Unit Head on June 1, 2024.



**Pedagogical Knowledge
& Pedagogical Content
Knowledge**
(Education major or minor
& M.A.T.)

Pedagogical Knowledge & Pedagogical Content Knowledge

In this major-minor program, candidates meet the "Pedagogical Knowledge & Pedagogical Content Knowledge" requirement by majoring in Middle Grades Education. Candidates must also select at least one concentration that corresponds with their chosen content area: English, Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies. Concentrations are added by students through their Student Center in MyMadison.

The table below shows the general course sequence. See the Endorsement Checklists for more specific course information.

Middle Grades Education Major Course Work

- Candidates must receive grades of "B-" or higher in all Middle Grades Education major course work, unless otherwise indicated.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher is required for admission into the Teacher Education Program.
- Ensure a minimum of 120 *undergraduate* credit hours will be completed to earn an undergraduate bachelor of science degree.

Course		Course Title		Credits
FIRST YEAR (offered fall & spring semesters)				
Recommend taking MSSE 101, MSSE 201, or CSM 199 for an early field experience opportunity.				
Teacher Education Core	Pre-requisites to the major	PSYC 160	Life Span Human Development (C5SD; "C" or higher)	3
		WRTC 103	Rhetorical Reading and Writing (C1W; "C" or higher)	3
		EDUC 200	Foundations of Education in the United States ("C" or higher)	3
SECOND YEAR (fall semester)				
		LED 212 ¹	Foundations of Literacy for Middle School Teachers (co-requisite MIED 211; <u>fall</u> only)	3
		MIED 211 ¹	Field Experience in Middle Education (co-requisite LED 212; <u>fall</u> only)	3
SECOND YEAR (spring semester)				
		MSSE 210	Diversity in Middle/Secondary Grades	3
		MSSE 370 ²	General Instructional Methods for Grades 6-12 (pre-requisite LED 212 and MIED 211; co-requisite MSSE 371)	3
		MSSE 371 ²	Clinical Experience in Adolescent Education (co-requisite MSSE 370)	1
THIRD YEAR (check with department and advisor for course availability)				
Enroll in one course from each of these categories in the same semester.	Middle School Teaching Methods (choose one)	MSSE 411 ²	English/Language Arts Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8 (old MSSE 470E; pre-requisite MSSE 370; co-requisite MSSE 415)	3
		MSSE 412 ²³	Social Studies Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8 (old MSSE 470H; pre-requisite MSSE 370; co-requisite MSSE 415; spring recommended)	
		MSSE 413 ²	Mathematics Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8 (old MSSE 470M; pre-requisite MSSE 370; co-requisite MSSE 415; <u>spring</u> only)	
		MSSE 414 ²	Natural Sciences Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8 (old MSSE 470S; pre-requisite MSSE 370; co-requisite MSSE 415; <u>fall</u> only)	
	Middle School Field Placement	MSSE 415 ²³⁴	Content Area Field Experience in Middle Schools (old MSSE 471E, MSSE 471H, MSSE 471M, MSSE 471S; pre-requisite MSSE 370 and MSSE 371; co-requisite MSSE 411, MSSE 412, MSSE 413, or MSSE 414; spring recommended except science)	3
	Literacy	LED 440	Disciplinary Literacy in Secondary Education (pre-requisite MSSE 210, MIED 211, LED 212, MSSE 370; typically offered spring, summer, and fall)	3
		MSSE 425 ²	Assessment in Middle and Secondary Education (pre-requisite MSSE 370; recommend <u>fall</u> semester either third or fourth year)	3
FOURTH YEAR (fall semester)				
		MSSE 420 ²	Differentiation for Adolescents (old MSSE 460; pre-requisite MSSE 370; <u>fall</u> only)	3
		MSSE 403 ²	Behavior and Classroom Management in a Diverse Society (pre-requisite MSSE 370; offered spring and fall)	3
FOURTH YEAR (spring semester)				
		MSSE 450 ²⁵	Internship Seminar (co-requisite MSSE 465 or MSSE 475)	2
		MSSE 465 ²⁴⁵	Internship in Middle School (co-requisite MSSE 450)	8
		MSSE 455	Special Topics in Pedagogical Content Knowledge	3
Total Pre-requisite Credit Hours				6
Total Undergraduate Major Credit Hours				47

¹ Enrollment is BLOCKED and requires initial application to Teacher Education.

² Enrollment is BLOCKED and requires acceptance into the Teacher Education Program.

³ Candidates pursuing a SOCIAL STUDIES content area must register for HIST 357: Fates of Empires the same semester.

⁴ Candidates must student teach local to Harrisonburg, provide dependable transportation for field experience and student teaching and must be aware that student teaching placement location travel may be significant (up to one hour driving distance).

⁵ Course enrollment is BLOCKED and requires completion of the Student Teaching Application and all required tests and trainings.

Student Teaching Capstone Project

JMU prepares teachers who make decisions informed by research and reflective practice in diverse classroom environments. Under our accreditation by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), Middle Education candidates show this rigorous teaching preparation and satisfy this required assessment through the successful completion of the Student Teaching Capstone project in conjunction with the student teaching placement, during MSSE 450 Internship Seminar. Candidates should have an understanding of the purpose, structure, and value of the Student Teaching Capstone as a means to demonstrate professional decision-making in terms of instruction and assessment, and to provide evidence of candidate's ability for reflection.



Testing & Training
(Teacher Education Program
& Student Teaching)

Testing & Training

In this major-minor program, candidates meet the first part of the "Testing & Training" by completing the admission requirements to the **Teacher Education Program**.

Remaining requirements are completed through application to, and completion of, student teaching.

The Teacher Education Program

- Admission to the Teacher Education Program is required to enroll in upper level education courses. Generally candidates should plan to complete admission requirements no later than **October of their sophomore year**.
- Candidates should follow the application and admission steps located on the Education Support Center (ESC) website at www.jmu.edu/coe/esc under "Admission and Licensure."

Required Assessments

This program prepares candidates for licensure in Virginia. Therefore, candidates are required to successfully pass Virginia required assessments.

- Teacher Education Entry Assessments:**
 - Math Assessment:
 - A score of 46 or higher on the ALEKS will meet this requirement. You will have up to three opportunities to reach this score. There is no cost to the student.
 - The SAT, ACT, and the Praxis Core Math tests can also be used to meet this requirement. Please see the Teacher Education Program admission requirements for score requirements for these assessments.
- Content Area Assessment**
 - Begin preparing for the Praxis Subject Assessment for your content area no later than your junior year.
 - If you are student teaching in a **spring** semester, attempt your Praxis Subject Assessment no later than March 1 one year prior to student teaching. Submit a passing score for your Praxis Subject Assessment to the ESC no later than the following August 15.
 - If you are student teaching in a **fall** semester, attempt your Praxis Subject Assessment no later than November 1 one year prior to student teaching. Submit a passing score for your Praxis Subject Assessment to the ESC no later than the following March 1.

For more information about test requirements, visit www.jmu.edu/coe/esc/ or <https://praxis.ets.org/state-requirements.html>.

Student Teaching

- Applications for student teaching placements are due to the ESC by **October 31 of the academic year prior to student teaching** (typically the junior year). Candidates **must** attend one Student Teaching Information Meeting in the fall of their junior year prior to beginning the application. Instructions for the student teaching application packet are available at www.jmu.edu/coe/esc under "Field Experience."
- Students are expected to attend all required orientations and meetings for and within the student teaching experience. Information about these meetings can be found on the ESC website.
- Candidates must provide dependable transportation for field experience and student teaching and must be aware that travel to the student teaching placement location may be significant (up to one hour driving distance).







Resources

Middle Grades Education Program Support:

Position	Name	Room	Phone 540-	Email Address
Academic Unit Head	Dr. Katie Dredger	MH 3200B	568-6486	dredgemk@jmu.edu
COE Academic Advisor	Mrs. Reilly Zwanzig	MH 7240B	568-5663	zwanzira@jmu.edu
Faculty Mentor	Dr. Sarah Lupo	MH 3220G	568-2870	luposm@jmu.edu

Campus Resources:

Following are listed only a few of the many resources available on campus to support student success.

Educational Technology & Media Center (ETMC) – The ETMC provides a welcoming space for students to learn, study, and collaborate. It houses hundreds of books, including resources for education students, textbooks to assist in lesson planning, and a variety of children’s and young adult books. For more information, visit their website http://www.jmu.edu/coe/etmc .	
Education Support Center (ESC) – The ESC assists students by providing information regarding practicum and student teaching and is the place students submit documents that are required for licensure, such as Praxis scores. Peer advising is available to assist students with admission to Teacher Education. For more information, visit their website www.jmu.edu/coe/esc .	
MSME Department Website – For general questions about middle and secondary education programs, visit http://www.jmu.edu/coe/msme or visit the office in Memorial, room 3200.	
Science and Math Learning Center – Located on the first floor of the Student Success Center, the Science and Math Learning Center provides peer tutoring for over 26 STEM courses at no cost to students. For more information, visit http://jmu.edu/smlc . Additional tutoring is available through the Math Department. For more information, contact the professor teaching your course or see the schedule outside the tutoring room on the third floor of Roop.	
University Career Center (UCC) – The UCC office is located on the third floor of the Student Success Center and assists student in planning for their future, including assistance with job searches, choosing a major, and much more. For more information, visit their office or their website at http://jmu.edu/career/ .	
University Writing Center – The Writing Center provides assistance for students with writing papers, whether it be fixing citations or having someone revise your paper. For more information, visit their office on the first floor of the Student Success Center or their website at http://www.jmu.edu/uwc .	
Learning Success Strategies (LSS) – Located in the Student Success Center, LSS can help you develop skills in time management, study habits, reading comprehension, note-taking, test-taking, and more. For more information, visit their website at https://www.jmu.edu/studentaffairs/departments/deanofstudents/learning-success-strategies/index.shtml .	