

College of Education

Department of Middle, Secondary, and Mathematics Education

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<https://www.jmu.edu/coe/msme/>

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Student Information Packet

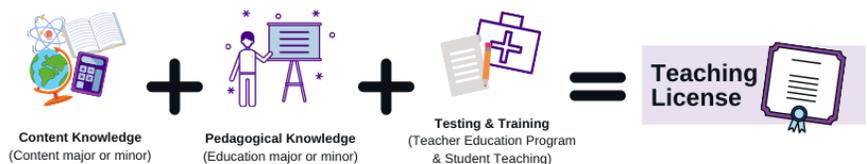
Graduate-only, Initial Teacher Licensure Program

Master of Arts in Teaching in Middle Grades Education

The Virginia Department of Education-approved Secondary Education graduate-only program prepares individuals for an initial teaching license for grades 6-8. This program is designed specifically for and only available to candidates who already possess an undergraduate degree and who decide to pursue a teaching license after graduation or at the end of their undergraduate career. Completion of the MAT graduate program is required for licensure in Middle Education.

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 formula illustrated to the right. Only when a candidate satisfied 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 or minor)

Content Knowledge

In this program, candidates meet the "Content Knowledge" requirement by possessing an undergraduate degree and meet specific content course requirements for at least one of the four licensure areas. Contact the MSME Department for advising support to determine content area eligibility for licensure:

- Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Science
- Mathematics

*Note: If interested in **Foreign Language**, please contact Dr. Jose Barrio-Olano in the Foreign Language Department.



Pedagogical Knowledge
(Education major or minor)

Pedagogical Knowledge

In this program, candidates meet the "Pedagogical Knowledge" requirement upon completion of the graduate coursework in the Master of Arts in Teaching Program with a Concentration in Middle Education.

See the table below for the graduate coursework.

Middle Education Prerequisite and Graduate Course Work

- Ensure a minimum of 120 *undergraduate* credit hours has been completed, earning an undergraduate bachelor's degree.
- Submission of a passing VCLA score, Praxis Core Mathematics (or satisfactory SAT/ACT Math Section scores), and Praxis Subject Assessment score is required to begin more than 12 hours of graduate course work.
- Students must have an undergraduate GPA of 2.7 or higher to be admitted into the Graduate program.
- Each graduate course must be completed with a grade of "B-" or higher and with a minimum cumulative graduate career GPA of 3.0. Any "Incompletes" must be resolved prior to beginning student teaching.
- For the program to be completed in one full calendar year, graduate course work must begin no later than the summer term.

	Course	Course Title	Credits
PRE-REQUISITE COURSES			
Teacher Education Core Courses	EDUC 200¹	Foundations of American Education	3
	PSYC 160¹	Life Span Human Development	3
	WRTC 103¹	Critical Reading and Writing	3
SUMMER TERM (Graduate coursework)			
	MSSE 550²	Foundations of Instructional Methods (<i>spring</i> and <i>summer</i> only)	3
	MSSE 607²	Curriculum Theory in a Diverse Society (<i>fall</i> and <i>summer</i> only)	3
	MSSE 625²	Assessment in Secondary Education (<i>spring</i> and <i>summer</i> only; pre-requisite MSSE 550 or take during 2 nd 6-week summer session)	3
	MSSE 503²	Classroom and Behavior Management in a Diverse Society (<i>spring</i> and <i>summer</i> only)	3
FALL TERM (Graduate coursework)			
	EXED 520²	Differentiation of Instruction and Assessment to Meet the Needs of Diverse Learners (<i>spring</i> and <i>fall</i> only)	3
	TESL 626	Concepts of First and Second Language Acquisition (<i>fall</i> only)	3
	LED 595²	Literacy Across the Curriculum (<i>fall</i> only)	3
Content Area Methods (choose one)	MSSE 560²	English Teaching Methods in Middle Level Education (<i>fall</i> only; co-requisite MSSE 565)	3
	MSSE 561²	Social Studies Teaching Methods in Middle Level Education (<i>fall</i> only; co-requisite MSSE 566)	
	MSSE 562²	Mathematics Teaching Methods in Middle Level Education (<i>fall</i> only; co-requisite MSSE 567)	
	MSSE 563²	Science Teaching Methods in Middle Level Education (<i>fall</i> only; co-requisite MSSE 568)	
Content Area Field Experience (choose one)	MSSE 565²³	Field Experience in Middle Level English (<i>fall</i> only; co-requisite MSSE 560)	3
	MSSE 566²³	Field Experience in Middle Level Social Studies (<i>fall</i> only; co-requisite MSSE 561)	
	MSSE 567²³	Field Experience in Middle Level Mathematics (<i>fall</i> only; co-requisite MSSE 562)	
	MSSE 568²³	Field Experience in Middle Level Science (<i>fall</i> only; co-requisite MSSE 563)	
SPRING TERM (Graduate coursework)			
<i>To be eligible to student teach, candidates must have completed all eight MAT graduate courses listed above with grades of "B-" or higher and with a minimum cumulative graduate career GPA of 3.0. Candidates must also have met all requirements for student teaching by the student teaching eligibility deadline (includes submission of TB test results and any other Education Support Center required trainings).</i>			
	MSSE 650²	Internship Seminar (includes Student Teaching Capstone Project; co-requisite MSSE 675)	3
	MSSE 675²³	Internship in Middle and Secondary Education (student teaching; register for <u>two different blocks</u> within the same semester at <u>three credits each block</u> ; co-requisite MSSE 675)	6
Total Graduate Credit Hours			36

¹ Grade of "C" or higher or CR required for Teacher Education.

² Course enrollment is BLOCKED and requires full admission into Teacher Education to register.

³ Candidates must 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).

Applying to the Graduate Program

Information on how to apply to the Graduate School can be found on the MSME website under "Student Resources". The program typically starts in the summer term but students may be eligible to enroll in graduate coursework during the spring term. For more information on eligibility, contact the MSME Department.

Note: For priority consideration, apply to The Graduate School no later than October 15th for spring admission, March 1st for summer admission.



Testing & Training
(Teacher Education Program
& Student Teaching)

Testing & Training

In this dual-degree program, candidates meet part of the “Testing & Training” requirement in the undergraduate portion of the program by completing the admission requirements to the **Teacher Education Program**.

Remaining requirements are completed as part of the admission process to the graduate program and through application to, and completion of, student teaching.

The Teacher Education Program

- Admission to Teacher Education is required to enroll in graduate education courses. Candidates should start their application to Teacher Education no later than one week following acceptance of admission offer and complete admission requirements as soon as possible.
- Candidates should follow the steps to apply that are 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:
 - Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA)
 - Praxis Core Mathematics
- Content Area Assessment:
 - A passing Praxis Subject Assessment score is required to take more than 12 graduate credit hours and for unconditional admission. Refer to your admission letter for information about your unconditional admission deadline.

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

Student Teaching

- Applications for student teaching positions are due to the Education Support Center office **within one week** of accepting their offer of admission. Candidates **must** attend one Student Teaching Information Meeting prior to beginning the application. Instructions for the student teaching application packet are available at www.jmu.edu/coe/esc under “Field Experience.”
- Students will also attend an Orientation Meeting in the semester prior to student teaching and a Student Teaching Conference during the student teaching semester. 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 student teaching placement location travel may be significant (up to one hour driving distance).

For requirements and additional information, visit the ESC website above.

STUDENT TEACHING CAPSTONE PROJECT

JMU prepares teachers who make decisions informed by research and reflective practice in diverse classroom environments. The Graduate School also requires candidates to successfully complete a comprehensive assessment in order to receive their graduate degree. Under our accreditation by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), Secondary Education MAT 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 650 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.

Resources

Secondary Education Advisors:

Position/Subject Area	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 3270A	568-5663	zwanzira@jmu.edu
Faculty Mentor	Dr. Angela Webb	MH 3265B	568-5834	webbaw@jmu.edu

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

<p>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.</p>	
<p>Educational Support Center (ESC) – The ESC assists students with providing information regarding practicums and student teachings and is the place students send in documents that are required for admission to the program, such as Praxis scores. Peer advising is available on the other side of the office to assist students during the admissions process. For more information, visit their website http://www.jmu.edu/coe/esc.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>University Career Center (UCC) – The UCC office is located on the first 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/.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>Learning Strategies Instruction (LSI) – Located in the Student Success Center, LSI 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/lsi/index.shtml.</p>	