

## College of Education

Department of Middle, Secondary, and Mathematics Education

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# Student Information Packet

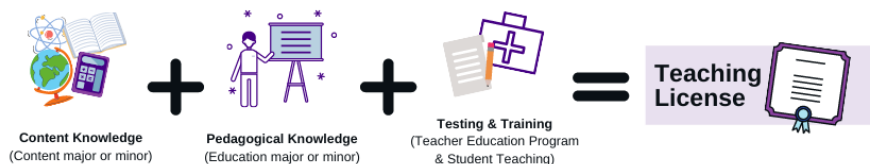
## Graduate-only, Initial Teacher Licensure Program

## 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 or who decide at the end of their undergraduate career or to pursue a teaching license. Completion of the MAT graduate program is required for licensure in Middle Education.

### Understand the Steps to a 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 satisfied each of the three requirement areas are they then eligible for their 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



**Pedagogical Knowledge**  
(Education major or minor)

## Pedagogical Knowledge & Pedagogical Content Knowledge

In this program, candidates meet the "Pedagogical Knowledge & Pedagogical Content 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, satisfactory SAT/ACT Math Section score (or sufficient ALEKS upon conditional admission to the program or Praxis Core Math), and a passing Praxis Subject Assessment score is required to begin more than 12 hours of graduate course work and to student teach.

- 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
<b>PRE-REQUISITE COURSES (must be completed prior to starting graduate coursework)</b>			
Teacher Education Core Courses	<b>EDUC 200</b>	<b>Foundations of American Education</b> ("C" or higher)	3
	<b>PSYC 160</b>	<b>Life Span Human Development</b> ("C" or higher)	3
	<b>WRTC 103</b>	<b>Critical Reading and Writing</b> ("C" or higher)	3
<b>SUMMER TERM (Graduate coursework)</b>			
	<b>MSSE 550<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Foundations of Instructional Methods</b> (spring and summer only; 12-week course)	3
	<b>MSSE 503<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Classroom and Behavior Management in a Diverse Society</b> (spring and summer only; 1 <sup>st</sup> 6-week course)	3
	<b>MSSE 607<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Curriculum Theory in a Diverse Society</b> (fall and summer only; 2 <sup>nd</sup> 6-week course)	3
	<b>MSSE 625<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Assessment in Secondary Education</b> (spring and summer only; pre-requisite MSSE 550 or take during 2 <sup>nd</sup> 6-week summer session)	3
<b>FALL TERM (Graduate coursework)</b>			
	<b>EXED 520<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Differentiation of Instruction and Assessment to Meet the Needs of Diverse Learners</b> (spring and fall only)	3
	<b>TESL 626</b>	<b>Concepts of First and Second Language Acquisition</b> (fall only)	3
	<b>LED 595<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Literacy Across the Curriculum</b> (fall only)	3
Content Area Methods (choose one)	<b>MSSE 560<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>English Teaching Methods in Middle Level Education</b> (fall only; co-requisite MSSE 565)	3
	<b>MSSE 561<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Social Studies Teaching Methods in Middle Level Education</b> (fall only; co-requisite MSSE 566)	
	<b>MSSE 562<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Mathematics Teaching Methods in Middle Level Education</b> (fall only; co-requisite MSSE 567)	
	<b>MSSE 563<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Science Teaching Methods in Middle Level Education</b> (fall only; co-requisite MSSE 568)	
Content Area Field Experience (choose one)	<b>MSSE 565<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>Field Experience in Middle Level English</b> (fall only; co-requisite MSSE 560)	3
	<b>MSSE 566<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>Field Experience in Middle Level Social Studies</b> (fall only; co-requisite MSSE 561)	
	<b>MSSE 567<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>Field Experience in Middle Level Mathematics</b> (fall only; co-requisite MSSE 562)	
	<b>MSSE 568<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>Field Experience in Middle Level Science</b> (fall only; co-requisite MSSE 563)	
<b>SPRING TERM (Graduate coursework)</b>			
<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>			
	<b>MSSE 650<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Internship Seminar</b> (includes Student Teaching Capstone Project; co-requisite MSSE 675)	3
	<b>MSSE 675<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>Internship in Middle and Secondary Education</b> (student teaching #1; co-requisite MSSE 675)	3
	<b>MSSE 675<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>Internship in Middle and Secondary Education</b> (student teaching #2; co-requisite MSSE 675)	3
<b>Total Graduate Credit Hours</b>			<b>36</b>

<sup>1</sup> Course enrollment is BLOCKED and requires full admission into Teacher Education to register.

<sup>2</sup> 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: We recommend applicants submit applications for summer admission by January 1 for scholarship consideration and March 1 for priority consideration. April 1 is the application deadline.**

## 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.



## Testing & Training

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

**Testing & Training**  
(Teacher Education Program  
& Student Teaching)

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 the Teacher Education Program 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 application and admission steps located on the Education Support Center (ESC) website at [www.jmu.edu/coe/esc](http://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)
  - 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:**
  - The Praxis Subject Assessment for the desired endorsement area must be attempted by March 1 prior to starting the graduate program. A passing Praxis Subject Assessment score is required to take more than 12 graduate credit hours, student teaching, 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](http://www.ets.org/praxis).

## Student Teaching

- Applications for student teaching positions are due to the Education Support Center office **within one week** of accepting the 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](http://www.jmu.edu/coe/esc) under "Field Experience."
- Students will also attend an Orientation Meeting in the semester prior to student teaching as well as 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 travel to the student teaching placement location may be significant (up to one hour driving distance).







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

## Resources

### Secondary Education Advisors:

Position/Subject Area	Name	Room	Phone 540-	Email Address
Academic Unit Head	Dr. Katie Dredger	MH 3200B	568-6486	<a href="mailto:dredgemk@jmu.edu">dredgemk@jmu.edu</a>
COE Academic Advisor	Mrs. Reilly Zwanzig	MH 7240B	568-5663	<a href="mailto:zwanzira@jmu.edu">zwanzira@jmu.edu</a>
Faculty Mentor	Dr. Angela Webb	MH 3265B	568-5834	<a href="mailto:webbaw@jmu.edu">webbaw@jmu.edu</a>

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

<p><b>Educational Technology &amp; Media Center (ETMC)</b> – 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 <a href="http://www.jmu.edu/coe/etmc">http://www.jmu.edu/coe/etmc</a>.</p>	
<p><b>Educational Support Center (ESC)</b> – 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 <a href="http://www.jmu.edu/coe/esc">http://www.jmu.edu/coe/esc</a>.</p>	
<p><b>MSME Department Website</b> – For general questions about middle and secondary education programs, visit <a href="http://www.jmu.edu/coe/msme">http://www.jmu.edu/coe/msme</a> or visit the office in Memorial, room 3200.</p>	
<p><b>Science and Math Learning Center</b> – 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 <a href="http://jmu.edu/smlc">http://jmu.edu/smlc</a>. 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><b>University Career Center (UCC)</b> – 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 <a href="http://jmu.edu/career/">http://jmu.edu/career/</a>.</p>	
<p><b>University Writing Center</b> – 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 <a href="http://www.jmu.edu/uwc">http://www.jmu.edu/uwc</a>.</p>	
<p><b>Learning Strategies Instruction (LSI)</b> – 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 <a href="https://www.jmu.edu/lsi/index.shtml">https://www.jmu.edu/lsi/index.shtml</a>.</p>	