

M.A.T. in Secondary Education

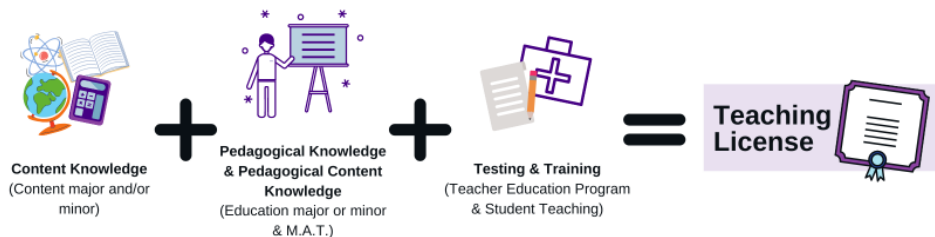
Program Overview

Catalog Year 2025-2026

This Virginia Department of Education-approved Secondary Education graduate-only program prepares individuals for eligibility for an initial teaching license in grades 6-12. This program is designed specifically for and is only available to candidates who already possess an undergraduate degree or who decide at the end of their undergraduate career to pursue a teaching license. Completion of the MAT graduate-only program is required for licensure in Secondary Education.

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 below. 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

In this program, candidates meet the “Content Knowledge” requirement by possessing an undergraduate degree with a major in one of the eight Virginia Department of Education-approved teacher licensure areas listed below. In addition, some licensure areas may require specific course requirements and/or additional support or cognate courses beyond the core subject area. Contact the MSME Department for advising support to determine content area eligibility for licensure:

- English
- Mathematics
- History
- Political Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth and Environmental Science
- Physics



Pedagogical Knowledge & Pedagogical Content Knowledge

Education major or minor & M.A.T.

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 Secondary Education.

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 Graduate 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 15, 2025.

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, *if courses are offered*. For more information on eligibility, contact the MSME Department.

Note: We recommend applicants submit applications for summer admission by January 1 for scholarship and Graduate Assistantship position consideration and March 1 for priority consideration. April 1 is the application deadline.

Students are expected to attend a program orientation (virtual; early April) as well as an MSME Graduate Student Orientation (first week of summer courses). Specific dates will be sent with admission letters.

Secondary Education Prerequisite and Graduate Course Work Requirements

UNCONDITIONAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- An undergraduate bachelor's degree with a major in one of the approved content areas,
- A cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.7 or higher,
- Completion of content coursework for your desired content/licensure area endorsement,
- Submission of a satisfactory SAT/ACT Math Section score (contact a program advisor for more information), or upon conditional admission to the program, a sufficient ALEKS score or Praxis Core Math,
- Submission of a passing score on the appropriate Praxis Subject Assessment (<https://praxis.ets.org/state-requirements/virginia-tests.html>) for your desired content/licensure area endorsement,
- Submission of a resume,
- Two satisfactory professional references, one who can speak of your potential as a graduate student and another who can comment on your professional teaching dispositions,
- Completion of an interview with the Program Director.

If you don't meet admission requirements by the unconditional admission deadline in your admission letter, you will need to submit an appeal to continue in the program. Contact the MSME Department (middlesecondaryeduc@jmu.edu) for more information if you find yourself in this situation.

NOTES:

- Submission of a passing score on your Praxis Subject Assessment is required to begin more than 12 credit hours of graduate coursework and to student teach.
- Each graduate course must be completed with a grad of "B-" or higher and you must maintain a minimum cumulative graduate career GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- 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 and all pre-requisite and content coursework must be completed prior to starting graduate coursework.
- Students may choose to take longer than one calendar year to complete the program. Contact the program advisor for a modified plan of study.

See the table below for the graduate course sequence.

PRE-REQUISITE COURSES (or equivalents; must be completed <u>prior</u> to starting graduate coursework)	
TEACHER EDUCATION CORE	
PSYC 160. Life Span Human Development ("C" or higher) or EDUC 175. Learning, Behavior and Engagement in Context ("C" or higher)	3 credits
WRTC 103. Rhetorical Reading and Writing ("C" or higher)	3 credits
English Course or equivalent; required literature course ("C" or higher)	3 credits
EDUC 200. Foundations of Education in the United States ("C" or higher)	3 credits

SUMMER TERM (Graduate coursework)	
FOUNDATIONS OF INSTRUCTION AND PEDAGOGICAL SUPPORT COURSES	
MSSE 550. Foundations of Instructional Methods (Summer only)	3 credits
MSSE 503. Classroom and Behavior Management in a Diverse Society (1 st 6-week Summer session)	3 credits
MSSE 607. Curriculum Theory in a Diverse Society (prerequisite: admission to Teacher Ed.)	3 credits
MSSE 625. Assessment of and for Learning (2 nd 6-week Summer session; pre-requisite: admission to Teacher Ed.)	3 credits
FALL TERM (Graduate coursework)	
PEDAGOGICAL SUPPORT COURSES	
LED 595. Literacy Across the Curriculum	3 credits
MSSE 620. Differentiation of Instruction and Assessment to Meet the Needs of Adolescent Learners	3 credits
CONTENT AREA HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING METHODS (choose one) Fall only; corequisite: MSSE 545.	
MSSE 541. English Teaching Methods Grades 9-12 or MSSE 542. Social Studies Teaching Methods, Grades 9-12 or MSSE 543. Mathematics Teaching Methods, Grades 9-12 or MSSE 544. Natural Sciences Teaching Methods Grades 9-12	3 credits
CONTENT AREA HIGH SCHOOL FIELD EXPERIENCE Fall only; co-requisite MSSE 541, MSSE 542, MSSE 543, or MSSE 544	
MSSE 545. Field Experience in Secondary Education	3 credits
SPRING TERM (Graduate coursework)	
MSSE 650. Internship Seminar (includes Student Teaching Capstone Project; co-requisite MSSE 665 and MSSE 675)	3 credits
MSSE 665. Internship in Middle Education (Student Teaching; co-requisite MSSE 650 and MSSE 675)	3 credits
MSSE 675. Internship in Middle and Secondary Education (Student Teaching; co-requisite MSSE 650 and MSSE 665)	3 credits
Total Graduate Credit Hours 33 credits	

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 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 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 and Student Teaching

In this graduate-only program, candidates meet part of the “Testing & Training” requirement 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 the Teacher Education Program** is required to enroll in many of the graduate courses. Candidates should start their application to Teacher Education **no later than one week** following acceptance of admission offer and receiving access to JMU email. Candidates should complete admission requirements as soon as possible. Meet with your advisor for additional guidance.
- Candidates should follow 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. For this graduate-only program, these assessments are incorporated into the admission requirements for the graduate program, but may also need to be submitted separately to the Education Support Center.

Teacher Education Entry Assessments:

- Math Assessment:
 - A score of 46 or higher on the ALEKS will meet this requirement. You will get access to this test once admitted to the graduate program. 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 your content/licensure area endorsement must be attempted by May 15 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 <https://praxis.ets.org/state-requirements.html>.

Student Teaching

- The following courses are BLOCKED and require completion of the Student Teaching Application and all required tests and training: MSSE 650, MSSE 665, and MSSE 675.
- To be eligible to student teach, candidates must have completed all nine MAT graduate courses listed above with grades of “B-” or higher and with a minimum cumulative graduate GPA of 3.0 or higher. Candidates must also have met all requirements for student teaching (including all Education Support Center required tests and trainings).
- Applications for student teaching positions are due to the Education Support Center as soon as possible after accepting the offer of admission and receiving access to JMU email. The student teaching application is only open for the first week of each month. Instructions for completing the student teaching application packet are available at www.jmu.edu/coe/esc under “Field Experience.” Students in this graduate-only program may request to student teach locally or in another region of Virginia.
- Candidates may student teach local to Harrisonburg or request a placement in a different region of Virginia (granted depending upon availability of cooperating teachers and university supervisors)
- 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

Secondary Education Program Support:

Dr. Katie Dredger, Academic Unit Head	Memorial Hall 3200B	Phone 540-568-6486	Email dredgemk@jmu.edu
Dr. Melanie Shoffner, Graduate Program Director	Memorial Hall 3265A	Phone 540-568-4314	Email shoffnme@jmu.edu
Mrs. Amber Loyacano, COE Academic Advisor	Memorial Hall 7240A	Phone 540-568-5334	Email loyacaae@jmu.edu

Campus Resources:

Listed are 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>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.</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 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/.</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 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.</p>	