

B.S. in Secondary Education

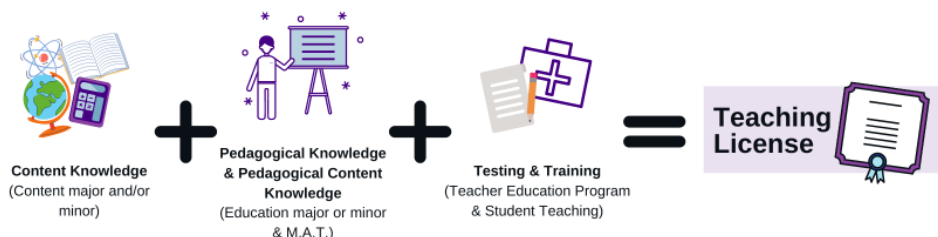
Program Overview

Catalog Year 2025-2026

This Virginia Department of Education-approved Secondary Education undergraduate-only program prepares individuals for an initial teaching license for grades 6-12. This double major program in Secondary 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.

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 double major program, candidates meet the “Content Knowledge” requirement by majoring in one of our Virginia Department of Education-approved teacher **licensure areas**. See the Endorsement Checklists on the MSME website for more information:

- English
- History, Teacher Education Concentration (must also declare the Social Studies minor)
- Mathematics
- Political Science (must also declare the Social Studies minor)

Students interested in one of the science endorsement areas (Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, or Physics) should contact the MSME Department for more information and advising.

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 (NON-LICENSURE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED):

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|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| • Coaching Education | • Human Resource Development | • Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) |
| • Educational Media | • Military Leadership | |

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

Memorial Hall, 395 S. High Street, Room 3200, MSC 6912 Harrisonburg, VA 22807 | Phone (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 and 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.



Pedagogical Knowledge & Pedagogical Content Knowledge

Education major or minor & M.A.T.

In this double major program, candidates meet the “Pedagogical Knowledge & Pedagogical Content Knowledge” requirement by majoring in Secondary Education. Candidates must also select a 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 on the MSME website for more specific course information.

Secondary Education Major Course Work

- Candidates must receive grades of “B-” or higher in all Secondary Education 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’s degree.

FIRST YEAR (offered Fall & Spring semesters)

Recommend taking MSSE 101, MSSE 201, or CSM 199 for an optional early field experience opportunity.

TEACHER EDUCATION CORE

PSYC 160. Life Span Human Development (C5SD; “C” or higher)	3 credits
or EDUC 175. Learning, Behavior and Engagement in Context (C5SD; “C” or higher)	
WRTC 103. Rhetorical Reading and Writing (C1W; “C” or higher)	3 credits
English Course or equivalent; required literature course (C2L; “C” or higher)	3 credits
EDUC 200. Foundations of Education in the United States (“C” or higher)	3 credits

SECOND YEAR (Fall & Spring semesters)

CLASSROOM FOUNDATIONS

MSSE 210. Diversity in Middle and Secondary Education (prerequisite: submitted application to teacher education)	3 credits
MSSE 370. General Instructional Methods for Grades 6-12 (prerequisite: admission to teacher education; corequisite MSSE 371)	3 credits
MSSE 371. Clinical Experience in Adolescent Education (prerequisite: admission to teacher education; corequisite MSSE 370)	1 credit

THIRD YEAR (check with department and advisor for course availability)

LED 440. Disciplinary Literacy in Secondary Education (prerequisite MSSE 370)	3 credits
MSSE 425. Assessment in Middle and Secondary Education (prerequisite MSSE 370; recommend before MSSE 420)	3 credits

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHING METHODS (choose one)

Prerequisite MSSE 370; corequisite MSSE 415.

MSSE 411. English/Language Arts Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8 (Spring recommended)	
or MSSE 412. Social Studies Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8 (corequisite HIST 357; Spring recommended)	
or MSSE 413. Mathematics Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8 (Spring only)	
or MSSE 414. Natural Sciences Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8 (Fall only)	
	3 credits

MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD PLACEMENT

Prerequisite MSSE 370 and MSSE 371; corequisite MSSE 411, MSSE 412, MSSE 413, or MSSE 414.

MSSE 415. Content Area Field Experience in Middle Schools (Spring recommended except science)	3 credits
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FOURTH YEAR (Fall semester)	
MSSE 420. Differentiation for Adolescents (prerequisite MSSE 370; <u>Fall</u> only)	3 credits
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING METHODS (choose one) Corequisite MSSE 445; <u>Fall</u> only.	
MSSE 441. English/Language Arts Content Methods Grades 9-12 (prerequisite MSSE 411) or MSSE 442. Social Studies Content Methods, Grades 9-12 (prerequisite MSSE 412) or MSSE 443. Mathematics Content Methods, Grades 9-12 (prerequisite MSSE 413) or MSSE 444. Science Content Methods Grades 9-12 (prerequisite MSSE 414)	3 credits
HIGH SCHOOL FIELD PLACEMENT Prerequisites: MSSE 411, MSSE 412, MSSE 413, or MSSE 414; and MSSE 415. Corequisite: MSSE 441, MSSE 442, MSSE 443, or MSSE 444.	
MSSE 445. Content Area Field Experience in Secondary Education, Grades 9-12 (<u>Fall</u> only)	3 credits
SCIENCE MAJORS ONLY (choose one)	
MSSE 397. Science Pedagogy or PHYS 302. Science Pedagogy	2 credits
FOURTH YEAR (Spring semester)	
MSSE 403. Behavior and Classroom Management in a Diverse Society (MSSE 370)	3 credits
MSSE 450. Internship Seminar (prerequisite: approved to student teach; corequisite MSSE 465 or MSSE 475)	2 credits
MSSE 465. Internship in Middle School (prerequisite: approved to student teach; corequisite MSSE 450) or MSSE 475. Internship in Secondary Education (prerequisite: approved to student teach; corequisite MSSE 450)	8 credits
Choose one course below based on your content area major.	
MSSE 455. Special Topics in Pedagogical Content Knowledge (history, political science, and math majors) or LED 254. Literature for Adolescents (take <u>before</u> student teaching semester; English majors) or MSSE 495. Topics in Science Pedagogical Content Knowledge (chemistry, Earth science, and physics majors) or BIO 489. Topics in Science Pedagogical Content Knowledge (biology majors)	2 or 3 credits
Major Requirements Total	50-51 credits

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), Secondary 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 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

In this double major program, candidates meet the first part of the “Testing & Training” requirement by completing the admission requirements to the **Teacher Education Program**.

Remaining requirements are completed through application to and completion of required tests and trainings for 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.”
- The following courses are BLOCKED and require completion of the Student Teaching Application and all required tests and training: MSSE 450, MSSE 455, MSSE 465, and MSSE 475.
- 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. Angela Webb, Assistant AUH	Memorial Hall 3210G	Phone 540-568-2805	Email webbaw@jmu.edu
Mrs. Amber Loyacano, COE Academic Advisor	Memorial Hall 7240A	Phone 540-568-5334	Email loyacaae@jmu.edu

English Faculty Mentors:			
Dr. Mary Beth Cancienne	Memorial Hall 3240D	Phone 540-568-7327	Email cancieme@jmu.edu
Dr. Melanie Shoffner	Memorial Hall 3265A	Phone 540-568-4314	Email shoffnme@jmu.edu
Mathematics Faculty Mentors:			
Dr. Zareen Aga	Memorial Hall 3104F	Phone 540-568-2933	Email agazg@jmu.edu
Dr. Amanda Sawyer (& Social Studies)	Memorial Hall 3240C	Phone 540-568-6708	Email sawyerag@jmu.edu
Dr. Ann Wallace (& Social Studies)	Memorial Hall 3240B	Phone 540-568-7325	Email wallacah@jmu.edu
Social Studies Faculty Mentors:			
Dr. Eric Carbaugh	Memorial Hall 3205C	Phone 540-568-7326	Email carbauem@jmu.edu
Dr. Leonard Richards	Memorial Hall 3205D	Phone 540-568-5130	Email richarll@jmu.edu
Science Faculty Mentors:			
Dr. Robbie Higdon	Memorial Hall 3205B	Phone 540-568-6791	Email higdonrl@jmu.edu
Dr. Angela Webb	Memorial Hall 3265B	Phone 540-568-5834	Email webbaw@jmu.edu

Campus Resources:

The following listed are 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 .	
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 .	
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 .	