

M.A.T. in Secondary Education

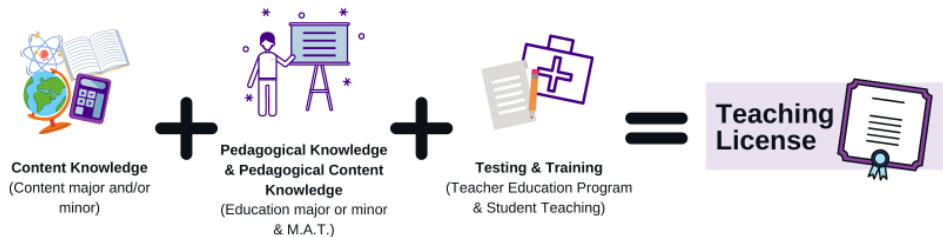
Program Overview

Catalog Year 2025-2026

This Virginia Department of Education-approved Secondary Education Dual-Degree (Bachelor's and Master's) program prepares individuals for an initial teaching license in grades 6 to 12. The undergraduate pre-professional program in Secondary Education is designed to provide candidates with the prerequisite course offerings and experiences that form the required foundation for admission to the graduate Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) Secondary Education program. Completion of the M.A.T. graduate 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 dual-degree program, candidates meet the "Content Knowledge" requirement in the undergraduate portion of the program by majoring in one of our eight Virginia Department of Education-approved teacher **licensure areas**. See each licensure area's Endorsement Course Checklist on the MSME website for more information:

- English – BA
- Mathematics – BS or Mathematics – BA
- History – BA, History Teacher Education Concentration (must also complete the Social Studies minor)
- Political Science – BA (must also complete the Social Studies minor)
- Biology – BS
- Chemistry – BS, General Program in Chemistry Concentration
- Earth Science – BA
- Physics – BS, Multidisciplinary Secondary Education Concentration

Add-On Endorsements and non-Licensure Minors

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

ADD-ON ENDORSEMENTS:

Algebra 1

MINORS (NON-LICENSURE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED):

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| • 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 | (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 and M.A.T.

In this dual-degree program, candidates meet part of the “Pedagogical Knowledge & Pedagogical Content Knowledge” requirement in the undergraduate portion of the program by minoring in Pre-professional Secondary Education.

Candidates complete 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.

See the tables below for the undergraduate and graduate coursework.

Secondary Education Undergraduate Course Work

- Candidates must earn a “B-” or higher in all undergraduate Pre-professional Secondary Education minor coursework, unless otherwise indicated.
- A minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of 2.5 is required for admission into the Teacher Education Program. A minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of 2.7 is required for admission to the graduate program.
- Ensure a minimum of 120 *undergraduate* credit hours will be completed to earn an undergraduate bachelor’s degree.

FIRST YEAR / SECOND YEAR	
TEACHER EDUCATION CORE	
PSYC 160. Life Span Human Development (C5SD; “C” or higher) or EDUC 175. Learning, Behavior and Engagement in Context (C5SD; “C” or higher)	3 credits
WRTC 103. Rhetorical Reading and Writing (C1W; “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
ORIENTATION TO THE PROFESSION	
MSSE 101. Orientation to the Profession	1 credit
JUNIOR YEAR / SENIOR YEAR (complete courses in listed order)	
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; co-requisite MSSE 371 or MSSE 430)	3 credits
MSSE 371. Clinical Experience in Adolescent Education (prerequisite: admission to teacher education; co-requisite MSSE 370) or MSSE 430. Introduction to Mentoring Valley Scholars (fall term start; contact MSME office for more information)	1 credit 3 credits
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHING METHODS (choose one) Prerequisite MSSE 370; corequisite MSSE 415	
MSSE 411. English/Language Arts Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8 or MSSE 412. Social Studies Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8 (co-requisite HIST 357) or MSSE 413. Mathematics Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8 or MSSE 414. Natural Sciences Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8	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	3 credits
LITERACY	
LED 440. Disciplinary Literacy in Secondary Education (pre-requisite MSSE 370)	3 credits
Total Undergraduate Pre-Professional Secondary Education Minor Credit Hours	20-22 credits

Applying to the Graduate Program

Information on how to apply to The Graduate School can be found on the MSME website under "Student Resources". Students may be eligible to enroll early in graduate coursework during the last semester of their undergraduate program. For more information on MSME graduate programs, visit the "Graduate Program" page on the MSME website under "Academic Programs" in the left navigation menu.

Note: For spring admission, we recommend applying by October 1 of your senior year for a transcript review prior to your final undergraduate semester, but no later than November 15. For summer admission, we recommend applying by November 1 for a transcript review prior to your final undergraduate semester, but no later than April 1. Application processing and matriculation as a graduate student may take, at minimum, a few weeks, so factor that into your timeline to be able to enroll in courses during your enrollment appointment for that term.

Secondary Education Master of Arts in Teaching Graduate Course Work

UNCONDITIONAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- An undergraduate bachelor's degree with a major in one of the approved content areas
- Admission to Teacher Education
- Completion of the specified and required content area licensure coursework,
- Completion of the Pre-professional Secondary Education minor,
- Passing score on the appropriate Praxis Subject Assessment for your content area, and
- A cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.7 or higher.

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. Please contact the MSME Department (middlesecondaryeduc@jmu.edu) for more information.

NOTES:

- Submission of a passing Praxis Subject Assessment score is required to begin more than 12 credit hours of graduate coursework.
- A grade of "B-" or higher is required in each MAT graduate course with a minimum cumulative graduate career GPA of 3.0.
- Any "Incompletes" must be resolved prior to beginning student teaching.
- Candidates must maintain professional dispositions throughout their undergraduate and graduate careers to be eligible for a license.

FIRST STAGE (spring and/or summer following undergraduate graduation)	
<i>Courses may be taken in any order in the Summer, but NO MORE THAN TWO COURSES may be taken in each 6-week summer term.</i>	
PEDAGOGICAL SUPPORT COURSES	
EDUC 540. Educational Technology (Spring and 6-week Summer only)	3 credits
MSSE 503. Classroom and Behavior Management in a Diverse Society (Spring and 6-week Summer only)	3 credits
MSSE 607. Curriculum Theory in a Diverse Society (Fall and 6-week Summer only)	3 credits
MSSE 625. Assessment of and for Learning (Spring and 6-week Summer only)	3 credits
SECOND STAGE (fall semester)	
PEDAGOGICAL SUPPORT COURSES	
MSSE 620. Differentiation of Instruction and Assessment to Meet the Needs of Adolescent Learners	3 credits
MSSE 630. Research for Practitioners (fall only)	3 credits
CONTENT AREA HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING METHODS (choose one) Fall only; co-requisite 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

THIRD STAGE (spring semester)	
STUDENT TEACHING and SEMINAR	
MSSE 650. Internship Seminar (includes Student Teaching Capstone Project; co-requisites MSSE 665 and MSSE 675)	3 credits
MSSE 665. Internship in Middle Education (student teaching; co-requisites MSSE 650 and MSSE 675)	3 credits
MSSE 675. Internship in Middle and Secondary Education (student teaching; co-requisites 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 the 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 the candidate's ability for reflection.



Testing & Training

In this dual-degree program, candidates meet the first 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 the Teacher Education Program** is required to enroll in upper-level education courses. Generally, candidates should plan to complete admission requirements no later than **March of their sophomore year**. Meet with your advisor for additional guidance.
- Candidates should follow the application 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 the summer following your junior year.
 - Attempt your Praxis Subject Assessment no later than March 1 of your senior year.
 - Submit a passing score to the ESC for your Praxis Subject Assessment no later than August 15 before your graduate second stage courses.
 - **A passing score is required for unconditional admission to The Graduate School, to take more than 12 graduate credit hours, and to begin student teaching.**

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

Student Teaching

- Applications for student teaching placements are due to the Education Support Center office by **October 31st of candidate's senior year**. Candidates **must** attend one Student Teaching Information Meeting in the fall of their senior 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 in the dual-degree program may request to student teach locally or in another region of Virginia.
- 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.

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 doubetkj@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

English Faculty Mentors

Dr. Mary Beth Cancienne	Memorial Hall 3240D	Phone 540-568-7327	Email cancieme@jmu.edu
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Mathematics Faculty Mentors

Dr. Zareen Aga	Memorial Hall 3265D	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. Michelle Cude	Memorial Hall 3210H	Phone 540-568-6995	Email cudemd@jmu.edu
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Science Faculty Mentors

Dr. Robbie Higdon (& Social Studies)	Memorial Hall 3205B	Phone 540-568-6791	Email higdonrl@jmu.edu
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Campus Resources:

Listed are 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 with providing information regarding practicums and student teachings and is the place students send in documents that are required for licensure, such as Praxis scores. Peer advising is also available to assist students with admission to Teacher Education. For more information, visit their website http://www.jmu.edu/coe/esc .	
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>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: 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>	