

# B.S. in Middle Grades Education

## Program Overview

Catalog Year 2023-2024

This Virginia Department of Education-approved Middle Grades Education undergraduate-only program prepares individuals for eligibility for an initial teaching license in grades 6-8. This major-minor program in Middle Grades 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.

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 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)

## Content Knowledge

In this major-minor program, candidates meet the “Content Knowledge” requirement by minoring in one of our four Virginia Department of Education-approved teacher **licensure areas**. Candidates are required to choose one of the licensure content area minors listed below but are encouraged to meet requirements for two. See the Endorsement Checklists on the MSME website for more information about courses:

- English minor
- Social Studies minor
- Mathematics for Middle Grades Teachers minor
- Middle Grades Science minor

## 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):

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

**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. 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 1, 2023.*



**Pedagogical Knowledge & Pedagogical Content Knowledge**  
(Education major or minor & M.A.T.)

## Pedagogical Knowledge & Pedagogical Content Knowledge

In this major-minor program, candidates meet the “Pedagogical Knowledge & Pedagogical Content Knowledge” requirement by majoring in Middle Grades Education. Candidates must also select at least one 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.

See the Endorsement Checklists for more specific course information.

### Middle Grades Education Major Course Work

- Candidates must receive grades of “B-” or higher in all Middle Grades Education major course work, unless otherwise indicated.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 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 of science degree.

Course		Course Title	Credits
<b>FIRST YEAR (offered fall &amp; spring semesters)</b>			
Recommend taking MSSE 101, MSSE 201, or CSM 199 for an early field experience opportunity.			
Teacher Education Core	Pre-requisites to the major	<b>PSYC 160</b> <i>Life Span Human Development</i> (C5SD; “C” or higher)	3
		<b>WRTC 103</b> <i>Rhetorical Reading and Writing</i> (CIW; “C” or higher)	3
		<b>EDUC 200</b> <i>Foundations of Education in the United States</i> (“C” or higher)	3
<b>SECOND YEAR (fall semester)</b>			
		<b>EDUC 310</b> <sup>1</sup> <i>Teaching in a Diverse Society</i> (co-requisite MIED 211 and LED 212)	3
		<b>LED 212</b> <i>Foundations of Literacy for Middle School Teachers</i> (co-requisite EDUC 310 and MIED 211; <u>fall</u> only)	3
		<b>MIED 211</b> <i>Field Experience in Middle Education</i> (co-requisite EDUC 310 and LED 212; <u>fall</u> only)	1
<b>SECOND YEAR (spring semester)</b>			
		<b>EXED 200</b> <i>Foundations of Exceptional Education</i>	3
		<b>MSSE 370</b> <sup>2</sup> <i>General Instructional Methods for Grades 6-12</i> (Old MSSE 240; pre-requisite LED 212 and MIED 211; recommend taking MSSE 371 as a co-requisite)	3
<b>THIRD YEAR (check with department and advisor for course availability)</b>			
Enroll in one course from each of these categories in the same semester.	<i>Middle School Teaching Methods (choose one)</i>	<b>MSSE 411</b> <sup>2</sup> <i>English/Language Arts Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8</i> (old MSSE 470E; pre-requisite MSSE 370; co-requisite MSSE 415)	3
		<b>MSSE 412</b> <sup>23</sup> <i>Social Studies Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8</i> (old MSSE 470H; pre-requisite MSSE 370; co-requisite MSSE 415; spring recommended)	
		<b>MSSE 413</b> <sup>2</sup> <i>Mathematics Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8</i> (old MSSE 470M; pre-requisite MSSE 370; co-requisite MSSE 415; <u>spring</u> only)	
		<b>MSSE 414</b> <sup>2</sup> <i>Natural Sciences Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8</i> (old MSSE 470S; pre-requisite MSSE 370; co-requisite MSSE 415; <u>fall</u> only)	
	<i>Middle School Field Placement</i>	<b>MSSE 415</b> <sup>234</sup> <i>Content Area Field Experience in Middle Schools</i> (old MSSE 471E, MSSE 471H, MSSE 471M, MSSE 471S; pre-requisite MSSE 370; co-requisite MSSE 411, MSSE 412, MSSE 413, or MSSE 414; spring recommended except science)	3
	<i>Literacy</i>	<b>LED 440</b> <i>Disciplinary Literacy in Secondary Education</i> (pre-requisite EDUC 310, MIED 211, LED 212, MSSE 370)	3
		<b>MSSE 425</b> <sup>2</sup> <i>Assessment in Middle and Secondary Education</i> (pre-requisite MSSE 370)	3
<b>FOURTH YEAR (fall semester)</b>			
		<b>MSSE 420</b> <sup>2</sup> <i>Differentiation for Adolescents</i> (old MSSE 460; pre-requisite MSSE 370; <u>fall</u> only)	3
		<b>MSSE 403</b> <sup>2</sup> <i>Behavior and Classroom Management in a Diverse Society</i> (pre-requisite MSSE 370; offered spring and fall)	3
<b>FOURTH YEAR (spring semester)</b>			
		<b>MSSE 450</b> <sup>25</sup> <i>Internship Seminar</i> (co-requisite MSSE 475)	2
		<b>MSSE 475</b> <sup>245</sup> <i>Internship in Middle and Secondary Education</i> (co-requisite MSSE 450)	8
		<b>MSSE 455</b> <i>Special Topics in Pedagogical Content Knowledge</i> (old MSSE 489H and MSSE 489M)	3
<b>Total Pre-requisite Credit Hours</b>			<b>6</b>
<b>Total Undergraduate Major Credit Hours</b>			<b>47</b>

- <sup>1</sup> Course enrollment is BLOCKED and requires initial application to Teacher Education.
- <sup>2</sup> Enrollment is BLOCKED and requires acceptance into the Teacher Education Program.
- <sup>3</sup> Candidates pursuing a SOCIAL STUDIES content area must register for HIST 357: Fates of Empires course this semester.

- <sup>4</sup> Candidates must student teach local to Harrisonburg, 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).
- <sup>5</sup> Course enrollment is BLOCKED and requires completion of the Student Teaching Application and all required tests and trainings.

## 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), Middle 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 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**  
(Teacher Education Program  
& Student Teaching)

## Testing & Training

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

Remaining requirements are completed 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 **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](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:**
  - Begin preparing for the Praxis Subject Assessment for your content area no later than the spring of your junior year.
  - Attempt your Praxis Subject Assessment no later than March 1 of your junior year.
  - Submit a passing score to the ESC for your Praxis Subject Assessment no later than August 15 of your senior year..
  - **A passing score is required for to register for student teaching.**

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 placements are due to the Education Support Center office by **October 31<sup>st</sup> of candidate's 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](http://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.







## Resources

### Middle Grades Education Program Support:

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. Sarah Lupo	MH 3220G	568-2870	<a href="mailto:luposm@jmu.edu">luposm@jmu.edu</a>

### Campus Resources:

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>Education 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 also available 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 Hall, Suite 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: <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 Success Strategies (LSS)</b> – 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 <a href="https://www.jmu.edu/studentaffairs/departments/deanofstudents/learning-success-strategies/index.shtml">https://www.jmu.edu/studentaffairs/departments/deanofstudents/learning-success-strategies/index.shtml</a>.</p>	