

M.A.T. in Middle Education

Program Overview

Catalog Year 2023-2024

This Virginia Department of Education-approved Secondary Education graduate-only program prepares individuals for eligibility for an initial teaching license in 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 to pursue a teaching license. Completion of the MAT graduate program is required for licensure in Middle Education.

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.

Understand the Steps to a Teaching License



Content Knowledge
(Content major and/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:

- English/Language Arts
- History and Social Sciences
- Mathematics
- Sciences



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

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

UNCONDITIONAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- An undergraduate bachelor's degree with a major in one of the approved content areas,
- Submission of a passing Virginia Communication Literacy Assessment (VCLA) score,
- Submission of a satisfactory SAT/ACT Math Section score (or sufficient ALEKS upon conditional admission to the program or Praxis Core Math),
- Submission of a passing score on the appropriate Praxis Subject Assessment,
- Submission of a resume,
- A cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.7 or higher.

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 1, 2023.

If you don't meet admission requirements by the unconditional admission deadline in your admission letter, you will need to submit an appeal in order 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 course work and to student teach.
- Each graduate course must be completed with a grade of "B-" or higher and maintain 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.
- Students may choose to take longer than one calendar year to complete the program; contact your advisor for a modified plan of study.

Course	Course Title	Credits
PRE-REQUISITE COURSES (or equivalents; must be completed <u>prior</u> to starting graduate coursework)		
Teacher Education Core Courses	EDUC 200 Foundations of Education in the United States ("C" or higher)	3
	PSYC 160 Life Span Human Development ("C" or higher)	3
	WRTC 103 Rhetorical Reading and Writing ("C" or higher)	3
SUMMER TERM (Graduate coursework)		
Foundations of Instruction and Pedagogical Support Courses	MSSE 550 Foundations of Instructional Methods (spring and summer only; 12-week course)	3
	MSSE 503 Classroom and Behavior Management in a Diverse Society (spring and summer only; 1 st 6-week course)	3
	LED 595 Literacy Across the Curriculum (take during 2 nd 6-week summer session)	3
	MSSE 625¹ Assessment of and for Learning (spring and summer only; pre-requisite MSSE 550 or take during 2 nd 6-week summer session)	3
FALL TERM (Graduate coursework)		
Pedagogical Support Courses	EXED 520 Differentiation of Instruction and Assessment to Meet the Needs of Diverse Learners (spring and fall only)	3
	TESL 626 Concepts of First and Second Language Acquisition (fall only)	3
	MSSE 607¹ Curriculum Theory in a Diverse Society (fall and summer only)	3
Content Area Middle School Teaching Methods (choose one)	MSSE 511¹ English Teaching Methods in Middle Level Education (fall only; co-requisite MSSE 515) <i>or</i> (old MSSE 560)	3
	MSSE 512¹ Social Studies Teaching Methods in Middle Level Education (fall only; co-requisite MSSE 515) <i>or</i> (old MSSE 561)	
	MSSE 513¹ Mathematics Teaching Methods in Middle Level Education (fall only; co-requisite MSSE 515) <i>or</i> (old MSSE 562)	
	MSSE 514¹ Science Teaching Methods in Middle Level Education (fall only; co-requisite MSSE 515) (old MSSE 563)	
Content Area Middle School Field Experience	MSSE 515¹² Content Area Field Experience in Middle Schools (fall only; co-requisite MSSE 511, MSSE 512, MSSE 513, or MSSE 514; <i>old MSSE 565, MSSE 566, MSSE 567, and MSSE 568</i>)	3
SPRING TERM (Graduate coursework)		
<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 GPA of 3.0. Candidates must also have met all requirements for student teaching (including all Education Support Center required tests and trainings).</i>		
	MSSE 650¹ Internship Seminar (includes Student Teaching Capstone Project; co-requisite MSSE 675)	3
	MSSE 675¹² Internship in Middle and Secondary Education (student teaching #1; co-requisite MSSE 650)	3
	MSSE 675¹² Internship in Middle and Secondary Education (student teaching #2; co-requisite MSSE 650)	3
Total Graduate Credit Hours		36

¹ Course enrollment is BLOCKED and requires full admission into the Teacher Education Program to register.

² 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 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 a MSME Graduate Student Orientation (first week of summer courses). Specific dates will be sent with admission letters.

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
(Teacher Education Program
& Student Teaching)

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**.

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 receiving access to JMU email 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 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 your desired endorsement area 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 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 and receiving access to JMU email. Instructions for completing the student teaching application packet are available at 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 Program Support:

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

Campus Resources:

Following are listed 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 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 http://www.jmu.edu/coe/esc.</p>	
<p>MSME Department Website – For general questions about middle and secondary education programs, visit http://www.jmu.edu/coe/msme or visit the office in Memorial, room 3200.</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 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 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>	