

# M.A.T. in Secondary Education

## Program Overview

Catalog Year 2023-2024

This Virginia Department of Education-approved Secondary Education Dual-Degree (Bachelors and Masters) program prepares individuals for an initial teaching license in grades 6-12. 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 (MAT) Secondary Education program. Completion of the MAT graduate program is required for licensure in Secondary 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 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 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:

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

## 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
- 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 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 August 1, 2023.*



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

## Pedagogical Knowledge & Pedagogical Content Knowledge

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 course work, 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.

Course		Course Title		Credits
<b>FIRST YEAR / SOPHOMORE YEAR</b>				
Teacher Education Program Core	Prerequisites to the Minor	<b>PSYC 160</b>	<b>Life Span Human Development (C5SD; “C” or higher)</b>	3
		<b>WRTC 103</b>	<b>Rhetorical Reading and Writing (C1W; “C” or higher)</b>	3
		<b>EDUC 200</b>	<b>Foundations of Education in the United States (“C” or higher)</b>	3
Orientation to the Profession (choose one; 1 credit required)		<b>MSSE 101</b> or	<b>Orientation to the Profession</b> or	1
		<b>MSSE 201</b> or	<b>Introduction to Social Studies Education Seminar</b> ( <i>spring</i> only) or	3
		<b>CSM 199</b>	<b>Science Outreach in Schools</b> ( <i>spring</i> only)	1
<b>JUNIOR YEAR / SENIOR YEAR (complete courses in listed order)</b>				
		<b>EDUC 310</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>Teaching in a Diverse Society</b>	3
Choose one IFP course to pair with MSSE 370 for a total of minimum 4 credits.	<i>General Instructional Methods</i>	<b>MSSE 370</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>General Instructional Methods for Grades 6-12</b> (co-requisite MSSE 371 or MSSE 430)	3
	<i>Initial Field Placement (choose one)</i>	<b>MSSE 371</b> <sup>2</sup> or <b>MSSE 430</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>Clinical Experience in Adolescent Education</b> (co-requisite MSSE 370) or <b>Introduction to Mentoring Valley Scholars</b> ( <i>fall</i> term start; contact MSME office for more information)	1 3
Enroll in one course from each of these three categories in the same semester during your senior year.	<i>Middle School Teaching Methods (choose one)</i>	<b>MSSE 411</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>English/Language Arts Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8</b> (old MSSE 470E; co-requisite MSSE 415)	3
		<b>MSSE 412</b> <sup>3,4</sup>	<b>Social Studies Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8</b> (old MSSE 470H; co-requisite MSSE 415; <i>fall</i> recommended)	
		<b>MSSE 413</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>Mathematics Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8</b> (old MSSE 470M; co-requisite MSSE 415; <i>spring</i> only)	
	<i>Middle School Field Experience</i>	<b>MSSE 414</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>Natural Sciences Teaching Methods, Grades 6-8</b> (old MSSE 470S; co-requisite MSSE 415; <i>fall</i> only)	3
	<i>Middle School Field Experience</i>	<b>MSSE 415</b> <sup>3,4</sup>	<b>Content Area Field Experience in Middle Schools</b> (old MSSE 471E, MSSE 471H, MSSE 471M, MSSE 471S; co-requisite MSSE 411, MSSE 412, MSSE 413, or MSSE 414)	3
	<i>Literacy</i>	<b>LED 440</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>Disciplinary Literacy in Secondary Education</b>	3
<b>Total Pre-requisite Credit Hours</b>				<b>6</b>
<b>Total Undergraduate Pre-Professional Secondary Education Minor Credit Hours</b>				<b>20-22</b>

<sup>1</sup> Course enrollment is BLOCKED and requires initial application to the Teacher Education Program.

<sup>2</sup> Course enrollment is BLOCKED and requires admission into the Teacher Education Program.

<sup>3</sup> Course work requires successful completion of MSSE 101, EDUC 310, MSSE 370, and an initial field placement.

<sup>4</sup> HIST & POSC majors must enroll in POSC 457. Fates of Empires as a co-requisite to MSSE 412 and MSSE 415.

## 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,
- Completion of 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 in order to continue in the program. Please contact the MSME Department ([middlesecondaryeduc@jmu.edu](mailto: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.
- 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.
- For the program to be completed in one full calendar year, graduate course work must begin no later than summer following undergraduate graduation.

Course	Course Title	Credits
<b>FIRST STAGE (spring and/or summer following undergraduate graduation)</b>		
<i>Courses are typically offered each 6-week summer session.</i>		
<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	<b>EDUC 540</b> Educational Technology ( <u>spring</u> and <u>summer</u> only)	3
	<b>EXED 512</b> Behavior Management in the Classroom ( <u>spring</u> and <u>summer</u> only)	3
	<b>MSSE 607</b> Curriculum Theory in a Diverse Society ( <u>fall</u> and <u>summer</u> only)	3
	<b>MSSE 625</b> Assessment of and for Learning ( <u>spring</u> and <u>summer</u> only)	3
<b>SECOND STAGE (fall semester)</b>		
Pedagogical Support Courses	<b>EXED 520</b> Differentiation of Instruction and Assessment to Meet the Needs of Diverse Learners ( <u>spring</u> and <u>fall</u> only)	3
	<b>MSSE 630</b> Research for Practitioners ( <u>fall</u> only)	3
Content Area High School Teaching Methods (choose one)	<b>MSSE 541</b> English Teaching Methods, Grades 9-12 ( <u>fall</u> only; co-requisite MSSE 546) <i>or</i> (old MSSE 570E)	3
	<b>MSSE 542</b> Social Studies Teaching Methods, Grades 9-12 ( <u>fall</u> only; co-requisite MSSE 547) <i>or</i> (old MSSE 570H)	
	<b>MSSE 543</b> Mathematics Teaching Methods, Grades 9-12 ( <u>fall</u> only; co-requisite MSSE 548) <i>or</i> (old MSSE 570M)	
	<b>MSSE 544</b> Natural Sciences Teaching Methods, Grades 9-12 ( <u>fall</u> only; co-requisite MSSE 549) (old MSSE 570S)	

	Course	Course Title	Credits
Content Area High School Field Experience (choose one)	<b>MSSE 546<sup>1</sup></b> (old MSSE 571E)	<b>Field Experience in High School English, Practicum III</b> (fall only; co-requisite MSSE 541) <i>or</i>	3
	<b>MSSE 547<sup>1</sup></b> (old MSSE 571H)	<b>Field Experience in High School Social Studies, Practicum III</b> (fall only; co-requisite MSSE 542) <i>or</i>	
	<b>MSSE 548<sup>1</sup></b> (old MSSE 571M)	<b>Field Experience in High School Mathematics, Practicum III</b> (fall only; co-requisite MSSE 543) <i>or</i>	
	<b>MSSE 549<sup>1</sup></b> (old MSSE 571S)	<b>Field Experience in High School Natural Science, Practicum III</b> (fall only; co-requisite MSSE 544)	
<b>THIRD STAGE (spring semester)</b>			
<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 meet all requirements for student teaching (including all Education Support Center required trainings).</i>			
Student Teaching & Seminar	<b>MSSE 650<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>Internship Seminar</b> (includes Student Teaching Capstone Project; co-requisite MSSE 675)	3
	<b>MSSE 675<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>Internship in Middle and Secondary Education</b> (student teaching #1; co-requisite MSSE 650)	3
	<b>MSSE 675<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>Internship in Middle and Secondary Education</b> (student teaching #2; co-requisite MSSE 650)	3
<b>Total Graduate Credit Hours</b>			<b>33</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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). 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).

<sup>2</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. 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 the 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 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.
- Candidates should follow the application 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 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](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 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](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

### Secondary Education Program Support:

Position/Subject Area	Name	Room	Phone 540-	Email Address
Academic Unit Head (AUH)	Dr. Katie Dredger	MH 3200B	568-6486	<a href="mailto:dredgemk@jmu.edu">dredgemk@jmu.edu</a>
Assistant AUH	Dr. Kristina Doubet	MH 3210G	568-2805	<a href="mailto:doubetkj@jmu.edu">doubetkj@jmu.edu</a>
COE Academic Advisor	Mrs. Reilly Zwanzig	MH 7240B	568-5663	<a href="mailto:zwanzira@jmu.edu">zwanzira@jmu.edu</a>
English Faculty Mentors	Dr. Mary Beth Cancienne	MH 3240D	568-7327	<a href="mailto:cancieme@jmu.edu">cancieme@jmu.edu</a>
	Dr. Melanie Shoffner	MH 3265A	568-4314	<a href="mailto:shoffnme@jmu.edu">shoffnme@jmu.edu</a>
Mathematics Faculty Mentors	Dr. Zareen Aga	MH 3265D	568-2812	<a href="mailto:agazq@jmu.edu">agazq@jmu.edu</a>
	Dr. Amanda Sawyer (& Social Studies)	MH 3240C	568-6708	<a href="mailto:sawyerag@jmu.edu">sawyerag@jmu.edu</a>
	Dr. Ann Wallace (& Social Studies)	MH 3240B	568-7325	<a href="mailto:wallacah@jmu.edu">wallacah@jmu.edu</a>
Social Studies Faculty Mentors	Dr. Michelle Cude	MH 3210H	568-6995	<a href="mailto:cudemd@jmu.edu">cudemd@jmu.edu</a>
Science Faculty Mentors	Dr. Robbie Higdon	MH 3205B	568-6791	<a href="mailto:higdonrl@jmu.edu">higdonrl@jmu.edu</a>
	Dr. Angela Webb	MH 3265B	568-5834	<a href="mailto:webbaw@jmu.edu">webbaw@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>	