Master of Arts in Middle Grades Education

The M.A.T. in Middle Grades Education addresses the North Carolina initial Professional Teaching Standards, Masters/Advanced Competencies which include standards in Instructional Expertise, Knowledge of Learners, Research Expertise, Connecting Subject Matter and Learners, and Professional Development and Leadership. In addition, the program addresses the National Middle School Association’s Standards for Master’s Level Teacher Preparation. The graduate program incorporates the conceptual framework which is common to all teacher education programs at UNCW: The Watson School of Education develops highly competent professionals to serve in educational leadership roles.

In order to better address candidates’ needs, the program is divided into two phases:

**Phase I** – Leads to the Standard Professional I (“A”) license (22 hours). This phase includes courses necessary to meet initial licensure standards. A semester long internship (9 hours) culminates phase I.

**Phase II** – Completes the graduate program (minimum 15 hours). The courses in this phase focus on advanced professional understandings, content specialty areas, and adding a focus area (e.g., ESL, ITS, AIG, international, or other approved area). The focus strands offer candidates the opportunity for additional professional development in a high need area.

**Program Objectives**

Upon completion, candidates for the M.A.T. in Middle Grades Education (grades 6-9), should be able to:

1. Understand and analyze the major concepts, principles, theories, and research related to young adolescent development, and apply that knowledge in practice.
2. Understand the range of individual differences of all young adolescents and adapt instruction to meet the diverse learning needs of individuals, including students with special needs and from culturally diverse backgrounds.
3. Understand and analyze the major concepts, principles, theories, and research underlying the philosophical foundations and organizational components of highly effective middle level schools.

For more information: [www.uncw.edu/ed/advising](http://www.uncw.edu/ed/advising)
4. Understand effective middle level instruction and assessment and apply a variety of strategies to meet the varying abilities, interests, and learning styles of young adolescents.

5. Demonstrate an understanding of the major concepts, principles, theories, standards, and research related to his/her teaching field(s) and apply that knowledge in practice.

6. Understand and analyze the major concepts, principles, theories and research related to working collaboratively with family and community members.

7. Use technology to enhance teaching and support learner outcomes.

8. Engage in reflective inquiry leading to professional development and positive results for student learning.

**Important Information**

A. Students enrolling in the M.A.T. program must select one of the following academic concentration specialties: language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies. Upon completion of Phase I students are recommended for “A” level licensure in the appropriate discipline.

B. Candidates for the M.A.T. program are required to have experience working with young adolescents documented before they apply in order to be knowledgeable about education in middle grades schools and working with young adolescents. Such experience may include substitute teaching, part-time teaching, volunteer work, and so forth.

C. Students enroll in a graduate methods course in their discipline which has a co-requisite lab attached.

D. Students are invited to meet with their advisors during the fall and spring semesters to plan program coursework and to receive their registration information. Prerequisites and co-requisites are listed in the UNCW Graduate Catalogue.

E. Selected courses require additional field experience hours so students must plan their schedules to accommodate these expectations. Successful completion of all field experiences in EDN and LIC courses is required for eligibility for internship.

F. Eligibility for the internship requires a 3.0 or better GPA based on graduate courses in the Program.

G. During the summer, fall and spring semesters, graduate education courses are offered on campus and/or on line.

H. Individuals may take up to 10 semester hours as non-degree students provided they meet Graduate School admissions requirements. These hours may be applied toward the degree upon acceptance as a degree-seeking student. A maximum of six semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred from another accredited institution in partial fulfillment of the total hours required for the master's degree.

I. A graduate student has five calendar years to complete his or her degree program. The five-year period begins with the student’s first term of work.
after formal admission to a degree-granting program. Work completed as a non-degree student does not initiate the five-year period for completing a degree program. Students must be enrolled in the term in which they complete their graduate work or are scheduled to receive their degree.

J. Graduate assistantships are available in the Watson School of Education. The positions provide employment for 20 hours per week working as research assistants with faculty members or as assistants in the Ed Lab, Technology Lab, or Curriculum Materials Center. For additional information, contact the Graduate Coordinator (Associate Dean for Academic Programs) in the Watson School of Education at 910-962-4142.

The University of North Carolina at Wilmington is committed to and will provide equality of educational and employment opportunity for all persons regardless of race, sex, age, color, gender, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation, marital status, veteran status or relationship to other university constituents – except where sex, age, or ability represent bona fide educational or occupational qualifications or where marital status is a statutorily established eligibility criterion for state-funded employee benefit programs.

Admission Requirements

A Bachelor’s degree must be completed before graduate study begins.

Applicants seeking admission to the M.A.T program in middle grades education are required to submit the following to the Graduate School:

- An application for graduate admission;
- Official copies of transcripts of college work (graduate and undergraduate); an undergraduate grade average of “B” (GPA = 3.0) or better is required.
- Official scores on Miller Analogies Test (score of 400) or Graduate Record Exam (a 1000 combined score on the Verbal and Quantitative sections);
- Three recommendations by individuals in relevant professional fields; and
- A letter of interest describing commitment to the teaching profession, prior experiences working with young adolescents, prior experiences in middle level schools, and philosophy of teaching and learning. Candidates for the M.A.T program are strongly urged to have experience documented before they apply in order to be knowledgeable about education in middle level schools and working with young adolescents. Such experience may include substitute teaching, part-time teaching, volunteer work, and so forth.

Admissions decisions are based upon several factors, and where other indicators of success warrant, individuals who fall below the established criterion in one of the areas may be considered for admission.
The admissions process for this program may require an interview. Final selection will be based upon consideration of academic record, test scores, writing samples, recommendations, and possible interview performance.

**Additional Requirement**

To ensure that prospective teachers seeking the M.A.T program offered by the Watson School of Education know the content they will be teaching, applicants seeking the M.A.T program in middle grades education are required to submit Official Passing Scores for the PRAXIS II Middle Grades Content Area Exam (language arts, math, science, or social studies). Applicants must identify **UNCW as the score recipient**. Praxis information is available on line at [http://www.uncw.edu/ed/advising/documents/praxisIItest.pdf](http://www.uncw.edu/ed/advising/documents/praxisIItest.pdf);

**PROGRAM OF STUDY**

(3.0 or better graduate GPA eligibility requirement)

**Phase I “A” Licensure (22 hours)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIC 518</td>
<td>Advanced Middle Grades Education</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIC 552</td>
<td>Advanced Reading &amp; Writing Methods, 6-9</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDN 520</td>
<td>Instructional Development</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Content Methods (Prerequisite: LIC 518)</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIC 553</td>
<td>Thematic Unit Lab (1 hr)</td>
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<td>Co-requisite: Select one of the following academic concentrations: (3 hrs)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Math concentration</td>
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<td>LIC 523 – Advanced Mathematics Methods, 6-9</td>
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<td>Social Studies concentration</td>
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<td>LIC 535 – Advanced Social Studies Methods, 6-9</td>
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<td>Science concentration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>LIC 538 – Advanced Science Methods, 6-9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Language Arts concentration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>LIC 555 – Advanced Language Arts Methods, 6-9</td>
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<td>(*Prerequisites: in addition to LIC 518, LIC 552)</td>
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Internship courses: Co-requisites

**Eligibility requirement:** Passing score on Praxis II exam in academic concentration (language arts, math, science, or social studies)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIC 511</td>
<td>Middle Grades Internship (6 hrs)</td>
<td>6 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIC 520</td>
<td>Advanced Diverse Learners, 6-9 (3 hrs)</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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**Phase I Total hours** 22 hrs

**Phase II (Minimum 15 hours)**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDL 523</td>
<td>Research in Education</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
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Academic Specialization: English, Social Studies, Mathematics, or Science.

For more information: [www.uncw.edu/ed/advising](http://www.uncw.edu/ed/advising)
To provide breadth and depth select courses based upon background 6 hrs.

Additional Focus Area: Select six hours from one of the following strands or another area as approved by the program 6 hrs.


Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Certification (K-12) http://www.uncw.edu/ed/aig/

Instructional Technology Specialist (ITS) & 079 Special Endorsement In Educational Computing and Technology Facilitation (TF): http://www.uncw.edu/ed/mit/certification.html

International Studies http://www.uncw.edu/ed/international/


Phase II Total hours 15 hrs.

TOTAL M.A.T. HOURS 37 HRS