

**WATSON SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**  
**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON**

**MASTER OF EDUCATION IN MIDDLE GRADES EDUCATION**

The M.Ed. in Middle Grades Education addresses the North Carolina Masters/Advanced Competencies which include standards in Instructional Expertise, Knowledge of Learners, Research Expertise, Connecting Subject Matter and Learners, and Professional Development and Leadership. 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.

**Program Objectives**

Upon completion of the graduate Middle School Education program, the student should be able to:

1. Develop disciplinary and pedagogical knowledge relevant to middle school curricula.
2. Adapt instruction to the developmental and learning needs of individuals, including exceptional children and children from non-mainstream cultural backgrounds.
3. Establish a classroom climate conducive to learning that is based on contemporary research findings.
4. Choose objectives consistent with state and local curriculum guidelines, the learning needs of students, and guidelines established by learned societies.
5. Provide effective objective-based instruction for a variety of types of learning in all of the subject areas of the middle school curriculum.
6. Employ appropriate evaluation procedures and use evaluative information as a basis for revising and generating plans.
7. Synthesize the diversity of information and resources available in order to provide a developmentally-appropriate learning environment for students in grades 6-9.
8. Establish a pattern of reflective learning and inquiry leading towards confidence, professionalism, and effectiveness in the role of teacher.

### **Important Information**

- A. The M.Ed. in Middle Grades Education requires that students have North Carolina “A” level licensure in middle grades education (6-9). Upon completion of the program, students are recommended for “M” level licensure in Middle School Education.
- B. Additional Praxis Specialty Area tests are not required for this program unless an additional specialty area is added.
- C. Students completing the M.Ed. provide evidence that they have synthesized the learning from their graduate courses during a final comprehensive examination. This written examination is taken when the final courses for the program are completed or in progress.
- D. Students must meet with their advisors during the fall and spring semesters to plan program coursework and to receive registration information. Prerequisites and corequisites for courses are listed in the *UNCW Graduate Catalogue*.
- E. Selected courses require additional field experiences as indicated on the *Program of Study*.
- F. During the fall and spring semesters, graduate courses are offered in the late afternoon and evening time periods. During the summer, graduate courses may be offered during Summer Session I or II, but typically are offered during Summer II.
- G. Individuals may take up to 10 semester hours as non-degree students provided they meet the 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.
- H. 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.
- I. Applications for comprehensive examinations are available in the Associate Dean’s office. Applications for graduation are available online [www.uncw.edu/grad](http://www.uncw.edu/grad)
- 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.
- K. Students who have earned National Board status may request a waiver of three hours of elective credit by providing appropriate documentation (i.e., copy of NBPTS score report or ACE transcript) to the WSE Graduate Coordinator.

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.

**Watson School of Education**  
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**MASTER OF EDUCATION IN MIDDLE GRADES EDUCATION**

The program leading to the Master of Education degree (M.Ed.) in middle grades education provides advanced training for individuals holding, or qualified to hold, North Carolina Class "A" teacher licensure in at least one area of middle grades education (6-9). The 37-semester hour program is comprised of four components: the educational core, academic content courses, professional procedures and research appropriate to the middle grades level, and leadership applications.

Based upon the view of the professional as a decision-maker, the program addresses the needs for conceptual and procedural bases for decision-making and specific alternatives within the student's anticipated area of professional practice.

**Program of Study**

**I. Middle Grades Core (9 Hours)**

EDN 500	Human Development and Learning	(3)
EDN 523	Research in Education	(3)
EDN 530	Curriculum	(3)

**II. Leadership (3 Hours)**

Choose one course from the following:

EDN 509	Education in a Multicultural Context	(3) <i>or</i>
SED 556	Seminar on Families, Diversity, and Collaboration	(3) <i>or</i>
EDN 567	Learning-Centered Supervision	(3)

**III. Content Specialty (9 Hours)**

Nine hours or more in courses from one content area taught in middle schools (e.g., Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies). Courses may be selected from graduate offerings in the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, English, History, and Mathematics for which the student has met the prerequisites.

**IV. Program Emphasis (7 Hours)**

EDN 549	Middle School Education	(3)
EDN xxx	Graduate Course appropriate to the subject discipline	(3)
EDN 593	Contemporary Perspectives in Education	(1)

**V. Practicum (3 Hours)**

EDN 577	Practicum in Middle Grades Education	(3)
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**VI. Electives (6 Hours)**

Six (6) semester hours of graduate courses appropriate to middle grades education as approved by the advisor.

EDN 599: Thesis may be selected (1-6 hours)

Note: A written comprehensive examination also is required.