MASTER OF EDUCATION: MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION SPECIALIZATION

The M.Ed., Middle Level Education specialization, 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 33-semester hour program is comprised of three components:

- Professional core: explore topics in research, curriculum, and diversity and their implications for middle level education.
- Focus area: deep investigation of issues related to middle level education.
- Capstone experiences: synthesis of issues in middle level education.

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

**Specialization Objectives**

Upon completion of the graduate MEd, Middle Level Education Specialization, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a depth and breadth of general knowledge in the field of Elementary Education.
2. Demonstrate a well-articulated knowledge of 6-9 communities.
3. Demonstrate effective communication skills that can be utilized when interacting with colleagues, administrators, and families.
4. Design, implement, and assess effective instruction, with particular emphasis on integrated curriculum and active learning strategies.
5. Establish a classroom environment sensitive to the cultural and linguistic needs of all students.
6. Use technology to enhance the academic achievement of elementary learners.
7. Demonstrate effective leadership within the 6-9 school environment.

**Admission Requirements**

- Bachelor’s degree completed before graduate study begins
- Official copies of transcripts of college work (graduate and undergraduate). An undergraduate grade average of “B” (GPA = 3.0) or better is recommended.
- Official scores on Miller Analogies Test or Graduate Record Exam.
- Three recommendations by individuals in relevant professional fields.
- A letter of interest describing commitment to the teaching profession, prior experiences working with elementary learners, prior experiences in schools, and philosophy of teaching and learning.
M.Ed. Middle Level Education Specialization
Program of Study

I. Professional Core (9 Hours)

Curriculum (3 credit hours)
Choose from among those listed, or with approval of advisor:
- EDL 530 Curriculum
- LIC 552 Literacy Integration 6-9
- EDN 541 The Role of Literature and the Curriculum
- EDN 584 Development of Language and Literacy Curriculum

Research (3 credit hours)
Choose one from among those listed, or with approval of advisor:
- EDL 523 Research in Education
- EDN 566 Research in Literacy Education
- HST 500 Historiography and Methodology
- EDN 527 Research in Science Teaching and Learning

Diversity (3 credit hours)
Choose one from among those listed, or with approval of advisor:
- LIC 520 Advanced Diverse Learners 6-9
- EDN 595 Culturally Responsive Teaching & Learning
- EDN 509 Education in a Multicultural Context

II. Focus Area (18 Hours)
Choose one focus area for the M.Ed., Middle Level Education Specialization:

Math add-on certification (K-6)
For Middle Grades math teachers interested in expanding their certification. Candidates are required to complete the following:
- EDN 595 Number Systems & Operations: K-6 Mathematical Tasks
- EDN 595 Geometry & Spatial Visualization: K-6 Assessment
- EDN 595 Algebraic Reasoning: K-6 Discourse & Questioning
- EDN 595 Rational Numbers & Operations: K-6 Learning Trajectories
- EDN 595 Data Analysis and Measurement
- EDN 595 Mathematical Modeling: K-6 Leadership

ESL add-on certification (K-12)
Candidates are required to complete the following: (see http://www.uncw.edu/ed/itfse/esl/courses.html)
- EDN 511 Introduction to ESL
- EDN 516 Second Language Acquisition Research & Theory
- EDN 517 Methods for Second Language Learners
- EDN 518 English as a Second Language Assessment
- EDN 519 Pedagogical Grammar for Teachers
- EDN 537 Linguistics for Teachers (ENG 525 may be substituted)
Academically/Intellectually Gifted add-on certification (K-12)
Candidates are required to complete the following. (see http://www.uncw.edu/ed/aig/)
Six (6) additional CRS are required as candidate’s elective.
- EDN 552 Introduction to Gifted Education
- EDN 553 Social and Emotional Needs of the Gifted Learner
- EDN 554 Curriculum, Methods, and Materials for Gifted Education
- EDN 555 Program Design and Implementation
- Elective Course
- Elective Course

Interdisciplinary Studies
Provides a highly integrated exploration of education, which not only includes the study and role of teaching, but is specifically designed for highly motivated middle grades teachers who wish to deepen their understanding of the social, scientific, and humanistic dimension of teaching in the 21st century. Candidates choose from among the following:
- EDN 500-599
- EDL 500-599
- MIT 500-599
- EVS 500-599
- BIO 500-599
- CHM 500-599
- GGY 500-599
- HST 500-599
- SOC 500-599
- ANT 500-599
- ECN 500-599
- ENG 500-599
- LIC 500-599
- MAE 500-599

III. Program Emphasis (6 Hours)
- LIC 595 Advanced Understandings of Applied Learning in the Middle Grades
- EDN 549 The Middle School (Synthesis/capstone course. Prerequisite: 24 earned hours in program)

Exit Criteria: Professional Portfolio will be developed throughout the program of study