

MIDDLE GRADES EDUCATION, MASTER OF EDUCATION

This program leads to the T-5 certification in Middle Grades Education and is designed to prepare master teachers to work with children in grades 4-8. This program also provides knowledge and skills for teachers to serve in leadership roles in curriculum development, supervision and research in the field of Middle Grades Education.

The purpose of the M.Ed. in Middle Grades Education is to promote leadership for 4-8 populations. Candidates complete 36 hours of courses designed to augment resourceful and imaginative problem-solving skills for 4-8 populations. All classes implement the College of Education's conceptual framework: Reflective transformative practitioner, culturally-responsive practitioner, technologically-competent practitioner. Candidates have to be admitted by the Graduate Admissions Office before being admitted into the program.

Objectives of the Program

The basic objective of the Master's of Education program in Middle Grades Education is to provide teachers with the opportunity to:

- Compare their teaching practices with current research based practices and make changes where necessary;
- Extend their knowledge and skills in a chosen area of educational interest;
- Present intellectually challenging thoughts and practices to students;
- Integrate new materials and methods of teaching into students' teaching repertoire;
- Encourage interest in conducting research;
- Increase competencies in research techniques; and
- Increase students' ability to recognize relevant research, which they can use to become more effective in their classrooms.

Capstone Research Project

The purpose of the capstone research project is to assess the student's knowledge of educational theory and applied research in a real-world classroom setting. The research project is a culminating assessment of a student's competency and skills as an advanced-level candidate in teacher education.

In partial fulfillment of the Masters in Education, students are required to successfully complete a research project. This research project is completed in the research course, EDUC 5592 Applied Research in Teacher Education. A student must earn a grade of "B" or higher in the course to signify their successful completion of the research project.

Area C Grades

Candidates must earn a B or better in all Area C courses (teaching field) to earn course credit for graduation.

Admission to the Program

Admission to the Middle Grades Education Program requires an undergraduate degree in Middle Grades Education, or the equivalent, from an accredited college. In addition, the following is required

- a clear renewable state of GA teaching certificate in the discipline
- three letters of recommendations

- writing sample
- College of Education Disposition Statement

If students lack a sufficient background in Middle Grades Education, they may be required to take additional undergraduate courses before beginning the M.Ed. program in Middle Grades Education. Students are also governed by the general admission procedures and requirements for the graduate school and the M.Ed. degree program, and they may matriculate in the Middle Grades Education program under the same categories of admission.

Program of Study

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Area A: Nature of the Learner and Behavior Problems		
Select a minimum of 3 semester hours of the following:		3
SPED 5501	Exceptional Child ¹	
SPED 5542	Behavior Modification for Special Education Students	
EDUC 5550	Foundation Principles in Education, Growth Development	
Area B: Programs and Problems of the School		
Select a minimum of 3 semester hours of the following:		3
EDUC 5504	History of Education	
EDUC 5509	Philosophy of Education	
EDUC 5540	Curriculum Principles in STEM	
Area C: Teaching Field ²		
EDUC 5199	Orientation to Adv Prof Educ (Required) ³	0
Select a minimum of 9 semester hours from primary area and 9 semester hours from secondary area		18
<i>Mathematics</i>		
MGED 5530	Mathematics Concepts for Middle Childhood Education	
MGED 5532	Methods and Materials of Teaching Middle Grades Mathematics	
MATH 5311	Geometry of Teachers***	
MATH 5202	Technology -Oriented Mathematics	
<i>Language Arts</i>		
MGED 5520	Language Arts Concepts for Middle Childhood	
EDRG 5594	Introduction to Theory & Pedagogy in Reading Education	
EDRG 5595	Diagnostic & Prescriptive Procedures in Reading Education	
EDRG 5596	Content Area Literacy	
ENGL 5615	Adv Exposition	
<i>Science</i>		
ISCI 5500	Integrated Earth Science	
ISCI 5530	Integrated Physical Science I	
ISCI 5531	Integrated Physical Science II	
ISCI 5515	Selected Topics in Biology	
EDUC 5570	Strategies of Instruction in Science	
<i>Social Science</i>		
SSCI 5580	Social Studies Concepts and Issues	
SSCI 5583	Social Studies for Global Understanding	
SSCI 5581	Methods/Material - Soc Studies	

Area D: Educational Research and Statistics (minimum 3 hrs) 3

EDUC 5500	Educational Statistics, Research, & Analysis ¹
EDUC 5502	Action/Classroom Research
EDUC 5592	Applied Research in Teacher Education

Area E: Educational Electives (minimum of 9 hours to be selected with advisor)

Select 9 semester hours from the following: 9

MGED 5541	Nature and Curriculum Needs of the Middle Grades Student
EDUC 5000	Professional Development for Accomplished Educators
SPED 5501	Exceptional Child
SPED 5512	Characteristics of Children and Youth with Mild Learning, Intellectual, or Behavioral Disabilities

Total Semester Hours 36

¹ If a student is working toward initial certification, SPED 5501 requires a grade of B or better in compliance with House Bill 671 and PSC rules.

² Candidates must earn a B or better in all Area C courses (teaching field) to earn course credit for graduation.

³ Required course