

**For:**

Current middle school teachers who wish to enhance their teaching skills and career opportunities by earning a Master's degree in Middle Grades Education.

**What you learn:**

The M.A. in Middle Grades Education includes thirty-three semester hours in five components: professional, instructional, content area, elective, and capstone. The primary focus of the program is to enhance middle level teachers' understanding and knowledge of the theoretical base, research, and exemplary practices of middle level education including, but not limited to, the nature of the young adolescent, developmentally appropriate instruction, and advanced content area knowledge. The Middle Grades program allows learners to improve professional skills, wrap theory in practice, and gain expertise in math, social studies, communication skills, or science. Students will benefit from a synthesis of current research and classroom applications. This program culminates in a capstone experience requiring an action research project designed in conjunction with the students' professors.

**How you learn:**

A five-semester Middle Grades Masters Program with an integrated curriculum delivered by direct instruction with online enhancement will be offered. Each of the semesters will consist of six hours of integrated curriculum with a one-hour capstone seminar attached to the first, third and fifth semester.

**Face to Face:** Coursework will be delivered primarily in a face-to-face format, augmented by online activities designed by the instructor for assessment, enrichment and collaboration. You will meet one night per week face-to-face from 4:45 until 8:45 p.m. in the Fall/Spring semesters, and one night per week face-to-face from 4:00 to 9:30 p.m. in the Summer term. While a portion of your classes will be conducted via Blackboard for the online enhancement, your final project will be stored as an electronic portfolio using another product called TaskStream. The electronic portfolio is required for North Carolina Licensure.

**Fully Online:** You will log into Blackboard to complete assignments, participate in online discussions, and complete group activities. While there are no face-to-face meetings, some of the activities may include chats, discussion boards, recorded and/or live webinars, and various web links for viewing. While your classes will operate in Blackboard, your final project will be stored as an electronic portfolio using another product called TaskStream. The electronic portfolio is required for North Carolina licensure. Upon full acceptance to the online program you will be required to complete online certification to verify your proficiency in an online environment.

**Career Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this program, students will have earned a Master of Arts in Middle Grades Education and be recommended for graduate-level licensure in Middle Grades.

**Prerequisites:**

Students in the M.A. in Middle Grades Education program will hold at least a Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum 2.50 grade point average. In order to obtain graduate-level licensure, students must hold Middle Grades initial licensure. Applicants not currently licensed in a Middle Grades Education content area will need an evaluation of transcripts to determine eligibility, if desired, for NCDPI Middle Grades Education licensure.

**Degree Requirements:**

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|----------------------------|--|-----------|
| EDUC 641                   | Philosophy, History, and the True Middle School                        | 6         |
| EDUC 697                   | Capstone Seminar   | 1         |
| EDUC 642                   | Measurement, Assessment, and Action Research for 21st Century Teachers | 6         |
| EDUC 643                   | Current Issues in Middle Grades Education                              | 6         |
| EDUC 697                   | Capstone Seminar   | 1         |
| EDUC 644                   | Teaching Strategies for Diverse Populations                            | 6         |
| EDUC 645                   | Teaching Content Literacy in the Age of Accountability                 | 6         |
| EDUC 697                   | Capstone Seminar   | 1         |
| <b>Total Credit Hours:</b> |  | <b>33</b> |