



The
UNIVERSITY
of VERMONT

Licensure Master of Arts in Teaching
in Curriculum and Instruction

Concentration in:
Middle Level Teacher Education
Grades 5-9

College of Education and Social Services
Department of Education
411 Waterman Building
Burlington, Vermont 05405
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**Program Information
and
Application Instructions**

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THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
College of Education and Social Services

**Licensure Master of Arts in Teaching in Curriculum and Instruction:
Middle Level Teacher Preparation Program**

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General Overview

The Middle Level Teacher Education Program offers a Licensure Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Curriculum and Instruction. It is designed for individuals who have a bachelor's degree, want to become licensed to teach, as well as earn a master's degree. The basic program fulfills the professional education requirements for state licensure in the area of middle level education.

Program Entrance Criteria

All applicants to the Middle Level Teacher Education Program must meet the following general entrance criteria:

- A general education background based on those studies known as liberal arts, which embrace the broad areas of the social and behavioral sciences, mathematics, biological and physical sciences, the humanities, and the arts
- A minimum of 18 credit hours in one academic discipline
The following are State of Vermont approved disciplines:
 - English
 - Math
 - Science
 - Social Studies
- A demonstrated commitment to working with children and young people.
- A minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 in undergraduate coursework and in the academic disciplines.

The information contained in this packet reflects the program as of January 2016 and may be subject to change.

Program Description: Some Questions and Answers

What is the significance of the name Licensure Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.)?

This program has two major objectives. The first is to become qualified to obtain a Vermont teaching license in middle level education. The second is to obtain a Master of Arts in Teaching degree in Curriculum and Instruction. The licensing requirements can be met without totally fulfilling the degree requirements. In order to complete the master's degree, in addition to successfully completing the licensure requirements, a student must complete two additional courses, and write a final comprehensive paper.

Are there any in-school experiences?

InC school experiences are an essential part of the program, and students must be able to arrange their schedules to accommodate this experience. In the fall semester students spend 3 full days per week in the schools and must complete a full semester of student teaching (5 full days per week) during the spring semester.

Most practicum experiences will take place at Partnership School Sites. These are schools that have entered into a partnership agreement with the College of Education and Social Services in which preparation of pre-service teachers is seen as a part of the overall school development.

What contact do I have with other students in the program?

All students in the program meet at an orientation session in the summer, and have contact throughout the year through courses offered on campus. In addition, students are assigned to a Partnership School and form a cohort at that site. These cohorts provide opportunity to develop professional, collegial relationships with undergraduate as well as other licensure students.

Can I begin the program at any time of the year?

Students admitted to the Licensure Program begin coursework during the summer session. There may be prerequisites for courses that must be taken in a semester prior to beginning the actual program.

There may be courses in a specific licensure area that are required and that are open to students who are not yet accepted into the program. Completion of these courses in no way guarantees acceptance into the program at a later date.

Is it possible to attend part-time or in the evening?

All students are strongly encouraged to enroll on a full-time basis (12-15 credit hours per semester). Part-time attendance is an option; however, all students must attend full-time during their final semester in order to complete their student teaching internship. Some required courses are usually offered in the late afternoon or evening, but it is not always possible to complete the program taking only evening courses. Part-time slots are limited and students must make a request to the program faculty for consideration.

Are there any minimum requirements to remain in the program?

Any student who earns two or more grades below a B (3.00) during his or her enrollment in the program, or who does not maintain a GPA of 3.00, may be dismissed from the program. Dismissal may be appealed to the College of Education and Social Services Studies Committee.

Can any requirements be waived based upon past courses and/or other experiences?

Comparable courses that have previously been taken at UVM or other institutions may be applied toward program requirements. Transfer of credits to the M.A.T. degree is limited to nine semester hours. Waivers and substitutions are considered on an individual basis, and will require appropriate documentation such as syllabi and catalog course descriptions.

What constitutes successful completion of the licensure part of the program?

Determination of a student's successful completion of the program is based on assessment of each student's Licensure Portfolio, and a student's satisfactory completion of all required coursework. A Licensure Portfolio documents a prospective teacher's ability to meet the "Standards for Vermont Educators: A Vision for Schooling" (State Department of Education). Guidelines for assembling a portfolio are available from the Middle Level Education Program Coordinator.

In addition to completion of a Licensure Portfolio, students must complete the professional education coursework for the specific licensure program, with a minimum grade point average of B (3.00). A minimum grade of B must be earned in the student teaching internship in order to be recommended for licensure. A description of the curriculum is found on page 6. The coursework is designed to meet the professional education requirements for licensure. General liberal arts background and major subject area requirements must also be completed prior to licensure. For most students these will have been completed prior to admission to the program.

Am I guaranteed licensure if I successfully complete the licensure part of the program?

The Vermont Department of Education requires all candidates for licensure to provide passing scores on the Praxis Core test and Praxis II in the content area of your endorsement. Since the Licensure Program has been approved by the Vermont State Department of Education, successful completion of the program results in a student being recommended by UVM to the Vermont Department of Education for licensure in the specific program area. To obtain a teaching license, a student must submit an application for licensure directly to the Vermont State Department of Education after completing the program. The State Department of Education will not issue a license without UVM's recommendation and passing scores on the Praxis.

For more information contact the Office of Student Services, 528 Waterman Bldg., 802- 656-3468.

Is a special comprehensive exam or formal thesis required?

Yes. Students prepare a final paper integrating knowledge, experience and research presented to a faculty committee in an oral examination. This is a requirement for the master's degree, but not for licensure.

Application and Selection

Applying to the Program

Applicants to the Middle Level Teacher Education Program should clearly demonstrate their content knowledge and commitment to working with young people in their application. The Statement of Purpose included should provide a framework for other elements of the application which may include samples or representations of work produced by the applicant; reports from others on her or his work; and reflective statements written by the applicant about his or her knowledge, skills and dispositions.

Applications for this program are available on the Graduate College website:
(<https://www.applyweb.com/uvmg/menu.html>)

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

- 11. Graduate College Application for Admission** – found on the Graduate College website.
(<https://www.applyweb.com/uvmg/menu.html>)
- 2. Resume** – include your educational and employment experiences
- 3. Statement of Purpose** – included in Graduate College application. At a minimum, two paragraphs and a maximum one and a half pages – single spaced, focusing in on your strengths and experiences working with young adolescents, your passion and commitment.
- 4. Transcripts** –official transcripts from **EACH** college and university attended.
- 5. Letters of Recommendation** – Three letters of recommendation using the forms found in the online Graduate College application packet. A front cover page and attached letter is recommended. Please make these letters at least and no more than one page long.
- 6. Writing Sample** – (*Optional, but strongly recommended*) an example of your formal writing style – term papers, essays or articles If too large to scan, can be mailed to the Graduate College at 85 South Prospect Street, 330 Waterman Bldg. Burlington, Vermont 05405-0160
- 7. Resident Status Application** – Vermont Residents only; included in the online application
- 8. \$65 Online Application Fee** – fee is non-refundable, to be paid online. Note: If paying by check, it can delay the application 7 to 10 days. (Continued next page).
- 9. Additional Supporting Elements** – Selected materials from coursework or work experience, paid or volunteer; representations of work; reflective statements written by the applicant about his or her knowledge, skills and disposition. May be submitted online.

Note: GRE or MAT test scores are NOT required to enter the Licensure Masters in Curriculum and Instruction: Middle Level Education Teacher Preparation Program.

Deadline: March 15, 2016. Faculty make admission decisions on a rolling basis beginning in January. We would like to get your application as soon after January 1 as possible. It is to your advantage to apply early. Please note that if your application is favorably

reviewed, you will be asked to come in for an interview. Applications will be considered after that date only if space is still available.

Further Descriptions of Elements of Application:

Statement of Purpose: Compose a statement indicating your reasons for wishing to undertake the Licensure Program and your plans for a professional career as a teacher. Describe your commitment to working with children and young people as demonstrated by experiences you have had with children and/or young adults in both teaching and non-teaching situations, and your preparation in the discipline in which you desire licensure. You may also wish to discuss your beliefs about or approach to teaching and learning, which has evolved from your experiences and education.

Note Regarding Transcripts: As noted above, you must request official transcripts from **EACH** college and university attended and have it sent as part of your application file. If you are in the process of completing a degree, request a transcript of your work through the most recently completed semester, and include with your application the courses in which you are currently enrolled. A supplementary transcript indicating grades received for the current semester should be sent as soon as it is available.

Letters of Recommendation: A minimum of three letters is required in support of an application for the Licensure Program. Letters should address aspects of the applicant's qualifications which are discussed in the statement of purpose, as well as an estimate of the applicant's aptitude for graduate study, promise of professional development, general character and stability, and potential as a teacher. Included should be how long and in what capacity the individual has known the applicant as well as the telephone number and address for follow-up contact if required by the Admissions Committee. These can be scanned in and submitted online.

Testing: Candidates accepted in the Master's program must complete PRAXIS I or its equivalent in the fall semester of their program. PRAXIS II must be completed prior to applying for a teaching license in Vermont

Partnership School Site Placements

Students in the Middle Level Teacher Education Program are placed at one of the Partnership School Sites around Vermont. At these schools, students participate as a member of the faculty for the entire academic year. For this reason, middle level licensure students should expect to begin their program with the in-service days prior to the beginning of the public school year, around August 21, immediately following the required EDML 207 course which usually starts around August 15 and runs from a Wednesday to the following Tuesday.

A student who is accepted into the Licensure M.A.T. Program will be notified of the site to which he or she has been nominated for placement. In order to confirm the placement and the acceptance to the program, the student will need to successfully complete an interview at the school. Students at partnership school sites complete some coursework and all practicum experiences as an integrated whole at the school. Because of the distances involved, many students at these sites live near the site rather than in the Burlington area.

What is the selection process?

Due to limitations in the number of students admitted, the selection process is, by necessity, competitive. Applications are evaluated on the general criteria listed above as well as the specific criteria on page 8 by a faculty committee in middle level education. Because of the field-based nature of the program, admission to the program is also dependent upon a potential field placement for each applicant. Notification will be mailed from the Licensure Program and the Graduate College within 30 days of admission. Reviewing faculty have the option of requesting interviews with specific applicants when they feel further information is needed.

What is looked for in candidates?

The committee is looking for people who have a commitment to the teaching profession, a passion for working with young adolescents, and a strong academic background. Successful experience in working with young people, as well as the ability to clearly articulate what it means to be a teacher, best demonstrates a commitment to the profession. Depth and breadth of knowledge in the liberal arts and sciences major or area of concentration demonstrate a strong academic background.

What are the important dates of which I should be aware?

Faculty makes admission decisions on a rolling basis beginning in January. It is to your advantage to apply early as the program does fill to capacity. We have a deadline of March 15. Applications will be considered after that date only as space in the program and at Partnership School sites allows. If accepted into the program, an applicant will need to respond within two weeks of the acceptance letter in order to confirm his or her intent to enroll in the program. Acceptance to the program will be rescinded if he or she does not respond within this time period. For some subject disciplines, acceptance is contingent upon confirmed placement in a Partnership School.

Middle Level MAT Course Offerings

Summer

EDML/EDSC 207 Adolescent Development (3-4 cr.)

Fall

EDSP 201 Foundations of Special Education (3 cr.)

EDML 260 Middle Level Curriculum & Instruction (3 cr.)

EDML 261 Middle Level of Teaching Practicum (3 cr.)

EDML 287 Content Literacy in the Middle Grades (3 cr.)

EDML 2xx Content Methods Course (3 cr.)- If seeking Social Studies or English language arts endorsements

Spring

EDML 270 middle level organization and pedagogy (3 cr.)

EDML 285 middle level student teaching internship (9 cr.)

EDML 286 middle level student teaching support seminar (3 cr.)

EDML 2xx Content methods course (3 cr.)- If seeking Math or Science endorsements

Total Credits: 33-37

Remaining requirements for the MAT:

Complete an oral and comprehensive exam.

Program Costs

How much is tuition and when do I need to be prepared to pay?

For graduate tuition information, please visit the Student Financial Services website at:

<http://www.uvm.edu/~stdfinsv/?Page=graduate-tuition-traditional.html&SM=tuitionsubmenu.html>

Out-of-State Student Tuition Grants:

Tuition grants for out-of-state students (up to \$10,000/yr) are available for 2016/17 academic year.

What are the requirements for Vermont residency?

The Vermont Legislature has established a lower rate of tuition for students who are Vermont residents. Vermont domicile must be established in order for a student to be eligible for inC state status. A student must reside in Vermont continuously for one year prior to the semester for which inC state status is granted. The burden of proof as to eligibility rests with the student and must be established by clear and convincing evidence. Complete regulations defining eligibility requirements for inC state status are listed in both the undergraduate and graduate catalogs. The residency form is part of the Graduate Application set of materials.

Is financial aid available?

Financial aid is available to eligible students in the form of guaranteed student loans and/or work study awards. Contact the Office of Financial Aid directly regarding questions of eligibility and to obtain application forms. They are located in 221 Waterman Building, and their phone number is (802) 656C 3156.

Whom do I contact with further questions regarding the program?

For more information contact:

Department of Education
Middle Level Education Program
411 Waterman Building
(802)656-1411
mrussin@uvm.edu