MAT Middle Grades (EDUC)
Course Descriptions

EDUC 524. Techniques for Inclusion of Diverse Learners, 3 hours, Fall, Spring
Equips both regular and special education teachers with skills and strategies to enable students with disabilities to be integrated into the regular educational program. Practicum included. Prerequisite: SPED 508.

EDUC 531. Evaluation of Learning, 3 hours, Fall, Spring, Summer periodically
Theory and skill in techniques for identifying learning problems, measuring learning, and gathering information about learner performance in order to measure learning, improve instruction, and make educational decisions. Preparation in the areas of types of learning, norm- and criterion-referenced tests, test construction, analysis and interpretation of test results, communication of the test results, and the use of alternative and authentic assessment. The student will be involved in designing and evaluating assessment strategies as well as interpreting and communicating assessment results.

Prerequisite: SPED 508.

EDUC 533. Educational Technology, 3 hours, Fall, Spring
This course equips the student with the knowledge and skills necessary to utilize computer software in the classroom as a means of improving classroom management and instruction. These skills include hands-on experience with software balanced with the use of software evaluation techniques and current research findings. No prior experience with technology is necessary. Macintosh and Windows platforms are used.

EDUC 536. Using Books with Children and Adolescents, 3 hours, Offered as needed
Introduces the student to the different types of literature available for children and adolescents, the various ways to use this literature, and the significant role it can play. Literature will be considered from the perspective of literary quality and content measured against age level and interest level appropriateness.

EDUC 537. Topics in Content Field, 3 hours, Fall, Spring, Summer
Acquaints the teacher with current issues related to the particular disciplines. One emphasis of the course will be to evaluate the issues for application of research in the classroom. A student may enroll for no more than a total of six (6) semester hours of topics courses taken independently within the graduate program. Instructor approval.

EDUC 558*. Foundations of Education, 3 hours, Fall, Spring, Summer periodically
Historical, sociological, and philosophical foundations of American education.

EDUC 560. Classroom Management, 3 hours, Spring
Effective classroom management techniques and strategies with an emphasis on providing practical applications. Disciplinary systems and organizational strategies for effective instruction will be discussed.

EDUC 561. Effective Home, School, Community Relations, 3 hours, Fall
Course content will focus on meeting students’ academic, social, guidance, and career needs through understanding communication theories and strategies; social and cultural change with respect to racial, gender, ethnic, and academic differences; and knowledge of differing cultural and lifestyle patterns. The course will also explore ways in which school professionals (teachers, counselors, administrators) can enhance communication with students, parents, other school personnel, and the community.

EDUC 600. Integrating Research and Learning, 3 hours, Fall, Spring, Summer
Designed to help students reflect upon experiences in the graduate program and to complete the non-thesis option for their degree programs. The major project for the course is an action research project that is designed to improve some aspect of the student’s professional practice. Each student submits a proposal, collects and analyzes data, and presents the project to an audience selected by the course instructor. Should be taken during final semester. Prerequisites: EDUC 630, Degree Plan.

EDUC 602*. Children in the Middle Grades: Curriculum, Instruction, and Classroom Management, 3 hours, Fall, Spring
Provides an overview of developmentally appropriate practice in the middle grades classroom. Emphasis is placed on understanding that effective instruction and classroom management is based on an understanding of children’s developmental characteristics, educational theories, and the requirements of the middle grades curriculum. Includes practicum experience.

EDUC 615*. Middle Grades Mathematics Methods, 3 hours, Spring
An introduction to research-based methods and materials for teaching mathematics in 4-8 classrooms. Activities will focus on curriculum, planning, and strategies for teaching and assessing 4-8 mathematics. Includes practicum experience. Prerequisite: EDUC 602. Corequisites: EDUC 616, 617, and 618.

EDUC 616*. Middle Grades Science Methods, 3 hours, Spring
Designed to equip pre-service teacher education candidates to teach science to students in grades 4-8. Students will develop an appreciation of the critical role that science plays in producing future citizens who are scientifically literate and able to participate knowledgeably in a scientific and technologically based society. The course focuses on research-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum, planning, teaching strategies, safety, and logistics for hands-on, minds-on science. Includes practicum experience. Prerequisite: EDUC 602. Corequisites: EDUC 616, 617, and 618.
EDUC 617*. Middle Grades Literacy Methods, 3 hours, Spring
Provides an introduction to research-based methods and materials for literacy instruction in the middle grades with an emphasis on curriculum implementation. Activities will focus on standards, curriculum, planning, teaching, and assessing literacy in the middle grades language arts classroom. Includes practicum experience. Prerequisite: EDUC 602. Corequisites: EDUC 616, 617, and 618.

EDUC 618*. Middle Grades Social Studies Methods, 3 hours, Spring
Designed to equip prospective teachers to teach research-based social studies in grades 4-8. Students will develop an appreciate of the critical role that social studies plays in producing future citizens who will have the knowledge and desire to participate in democracy. The course includes the curriculum and teaching strategies necessary for the middle grades social studies program. Includes practicum experience. Prerequisite: EDUC 602. Corequisites: EDUC 616, 617, and 618.

EDUC 630. Educational Research, 3 hours, Fall, Summer
Develop skills in reading, interpreting, and applying results from educational research literature. Students will focus on appropriate quantitative and qualitative designs and data analysis procedures for specific research problems.

EDUC 660. Thesis, 3 hours, Fall, Spring, Summer
A research project designed with the help of a faculty advisory committee (thesis committee). Students who do not complete the thesis in one semester are required to maintain continuous registration in EDUC 660 until completion of the thesis. Prerequisites: EDUC 630 and EDUC 631

EDUC 667. Student Teaching: Placement One, 4 hours, Fall, Spring
Observation, participation, and teaching under professional supervision. Must be taken concurrently with EDUC 668 and EDUC 669. Prerequisite: Admission to the student teacher semester.

EDUC 668. Student Teaching: Placement Two, 4 hours, Fall, Spring
Observation, participation, and teaching under professional supervision. Must be taken concurrently with EDUC 667 and EDUC 669. Prerequisite: Admission to the student teacher semester.

EDUC 669. Seminar in Student Teaching, 1 hour, Fall, Spring
This course is designed as the capstone experience for the teacher education program and the student teaching experience. Student teachers will reflect upon and analyze the experiences they are having in the classrooms to which they are assigned, and they will refine skills for entering the teaching profession. Each student will complete the process by which the developmental portfolio is transformed into the exit portfolio. All Praxis II exams required for licensure must be completed before a passing grade will be assigned for the course. Successful completion of this course is a requirement for the completion of all licensure programs. Must be taken concurrently with EDUC 667 and EDUC 668. Prerequisite: Admission to the student teacher semester.

SPED 508*. Survey of Persons with Exceptionalities, 3 hours, Fall, Spring, Summer periodically
Survey of the most common categories of exceptionalities, as well as the laws affecting the provision of services to individuals with disabilities. It also focuses on local and state programs for diagnosis and care. Includes practicum experience.