The Master of Arts in Teaching degree program is designed for the purpose of initial teacher licensure.

Purpose

Liberty University strives to produce educators who model high academic, moral, and spiritual standards before their peers, and who have dedicated their lives to educational leadership. Concurrent with this goal, the graduate programs offered by the School of Education are designed to prepare candidates for effective educational leadership in Christian, public, and private schools.

Program Learning Outcomes

A graduate of the Initial Licensure Master of Arts in Teaching program:

1. Knows Christian values, moral dimensions, and ethical implications synthesized with academic knowledge
   a. Demonstrates a broad base of professional and general knowledge.
   b. Demonstrates knowledge of content in the endorsement area.
2. Implements skills as a gift from God, because teaching is a calling from God
   a. Integrates skills in speaking, writing, reading, and listening for effective classroom communication, peer leadership, and professional involvement.
   b. Designs and selects a variety of instructional strategies based on the developmental levels and individual needs of the learner.
   c. Applies knowledge of content areas and curriculum goals to design and supervise appropriate instruction.
   d. Enhances the success of all diverse learners, providing for special needs and diverse backgrounds.
   e. Manages classroom climate and procedures to motivate students and maximize learning.
   f. Integrates a variety of assessment strategies to improve student learning.
   g. Integrates appropriate technology and resources to support instruction and to facilitate professional development opportunities.
   h. Provides evidence of student learning at the grade level and content appropriate for the endorsement.
3. Believes and practices personal integrity, social responsibility, sensitivity to the needs of others, and the betterment of humanity consistent with our mission to prepare competent professionals with a biblical worldview for Christian, public, and private schools
   a. Models personal integrity and sensitivity to human needs.
   b. Demonstrates behaviors of a reflective practitioner and seeks opportunities for collaboration and professional development.

Program Specific Admission Requirements

Programs that Lead to Initial Licensure

In addition to the general admission procedures, specific admission requirements for the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program are:

1. Earned baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (e.g., SACSCOC, TRACS, ABHE, etc.).
2. GPA of at least a 3.00 on a 4.00 scale (cautionary admission is an option if the candidate has at least a 2.50).
3. TOEFL Scores for candidates who speak English as a second language (score of 600 paper –based test; 250 computer-based test, 80 internet-based test).

Transfer of Credit

All graduate transfer credits are subject to the approval of the School of Education (SOE) Graduate Committee. Such courses must carry a grade of at least a B- and be comparable to Liberty University graduate courses. Transfer credit will only be considered from institutions or schools accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. With approval, up to 18 hours may be transferred into the M.A.T. programs. It is the responsibility of each applicant to supply official transcripts along with a written request to have credit applied to the degree program. Transfer credits must have been completed within the previous ten (10) years.

Credits from a prior degree on the same academic level earned through Liberty University are considered transfer credits.

Graduation Requirements

In addition to other regulations governing graduation as stated in the Liberty University Catalog, M.A.T. candidates must meet the following requirements:

1. Complete a minimum of 36 semester hours for the M.A.T.
2. A maximum of 50% of the program hours may be transferred if approved and allowable, including credit from an earned degree from Liberty University on the same academic level.
3. Maintain a 3.00 GPA to remain in the program with no more than two C’s permitted (includes grades of C+ & C). While all course grades are averaged into the GPA, course credit toward degree completion will not be granted for a grade of D (or D+/D-) or F.
4. For information regarding the repeat policy, please refer to “Course Repeat Policy” in the Academic Information and Policies section of this Catalog.
5. Additional requirements may be necessary depending upon the student’s academic background. All contracts made between the SOE Program Director and the student upon acceptance into the degree program must be satisfied before the degree will be awarded.
6. The M.A.T. must be completed within five years.
7. Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student’s anticipated graduation date.

Licensure Guidelines

The Educator Preparation Program is designed to meet licensure requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the candidate’s approved specialization. In addition, candidates who complete the Educator Preparation Program are eligible for the Association of Christian Schools International certificate.

The Educator Preparation Program has been officially approved by the Virginia Department of Education and is accredited under NCATE standards through the CAEP Accreditation System. Approved programs include all initial licensure M.A.T. programs in Elementary, Middle, Secondary, or Special Education. Candidates entering the M.A.T. program
must indicate their intention to pursue Virginia licensure when they apply for candidacy in the graduate program. Each concentration has licensure requirements beyond the master's degree. Upon completion of all requirements, the candidate must submit the licensure application and fee to Liberty's Teacher Licensure Office. Liberty's Coordinator of Teacher Licensure Records will submit the candidate's application packet to the Virginia Department of Education.

Graduates who have successfully completed Liberty's Educator Preparation Program are eligible for a standard Collegiate Professional License from the Virginia Department of Education. Though candidates must pass a background check for entrance into the Liberty University School of Education EPP (Educator Preparation Program), the VDOE (Virginia Department of Education) also makes determinations concerning the eligibility of candidates.

Please see the VDOE website to see the list of questions that will be asked of each applicant.

The Liberty University School of Education utilizes a gate system to ensure the successful progression of its candidates through the EPP (Education Preparation Provider) program. The following gates are described below:

- **Gate 1:** University Admission and Declaration of Major
- **Gate 2:** Program Status Check
- **Gate 3:** Program Admission/Student Teaching Application
- **Gate 4:** Program Exit/Licensure Application

Please visit www.liberty.edu/advisingguide for specific requirements at each gate.

Please see the VDOE website to see the list of questions that will be asked of each applicant.

### Initial Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and Special Education

The candidate must:

1. Hold a bachelor’s degree in a liberal arts area (or equivalent) from an institution that is accredited by an agency that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Secondary licensure requires a major (or equivalent) in the endorsement area and the successful completion of the Praxis Subject Assessment content exam for the area of endorsement;
2. Successfully complete Liberty's M.A.T. in Elementary, Middle Grades, Secondary, or Special Education;
3. Obtain passing scores on all tests required for Virginia licensure; and
4. Complete a student teaching experience in the endorsement area.

### Time Limit for School Licensure

1. Candidates must have completed all requirements necessary for school licensure within 5 years after completion of the graduate degree;
2. Candidates who have completed Liberty's M.A.T. and wish to return to Liberty University to complete the student teaching or internship required for licensure will be subject to the same five-year timeframe; and
3. Each case will be evaluated on an individual basis according to transcripts, program changes, time elapsed from completion of coursework, and recent experiences in the field of education.

### Licensure in Other States

Candidates who have completed Liberty's M.A.T. may be eligible for licensure in other states by interstate agreement. Verification that the candidate has completed a state-approved program may be required for reciprocity with other states; therefore, it may be necessary for the candidate to complete the additional requirements listed above for Virginia licensure in order to qualify for reciprocity. Liberty’s Teacher Licensure Office has addresses for the licensing agencies in other states and will assist in completing the appropriate forms. Some states require a state-specific course or test but will grant a provisional license so that the applicant can be employed while completing the additional requirements. It is the candidate's responsibility to obtain the appropriate forms from other states to submit to LU's Licensure Office.

For further licensure information e-mail: gate4@liberty.edu; fax (434) 582-2468.

*As a condition of Liberty’s Certificate of Approval from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the following disclaimer pertains to Liberty’s online programs in Teacher Education:*

**Teacher Education:** State Authorization to provide a program related to the preparation of teachers or other P-12 school/system personnel does not indicate eligibility for an Alabama certificate. Applicants for an Alabama certificate based on reciprocity must meet Alabama’s test requirements and submit a valid, renewable professional educator certificate/license issued by another state at the degree level, grade level, and in the teaching field or area of instructional support for which an Alabama certificate is sought and for which Alabama issues a certificate. Applicants for Alabama certification in an area of administration must also document at least three years of full-time employment as an administrator in a P-12 school system(s). www.alsde.edu.

### Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) Cognates

- Elementary Education
- Middle Grades Education
- Secondary Education
- Special Education

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1 Additional hours may be required for Virginia Licensure

30 hours for the MAT in Secondary Education 5th year option

**Note:** Candidates seeking licensure as secondary teachers should have completed a bachelor’s degree with a major in the intended endorsement area, or a degree in a related field with courses similar to that required for a bachelor's degree in the field of study. Any deficiencies in course requirements must be addressed prior to student teaching. See Content Competencies for subject area. In addition, candidates must successfully complete the appropriate Subject Assessment content exam in the area of endorsement prior to student teaching.

Candidates seeking licensure at the middle school level should have completed a bachelor's degree with a strong background in one or more of the following four subject areas: English, History/Social Science,
Mathematics, or Science. Any deficiencies in course requirements must be addressed prior to student teaching. [See Content Competencies for elementary/middle education.] In addition, candidates must successfully complete the appropriate Praxis II middle school content exam in the area(s) of endorsement prior to student teaching.

Programs of Study

**Delivery Format: Online Only**
(Select optional intensives available)

- Teaching (M.A.T.) - Elementary Education
- Teaching (M.A.T.) - Middle Grades Education
- Teaching (M.A.T.) - Secondary Education
- Teaching (M.A.T.) - Special Education [General Curriculum Endorsement]

Career Opportunities

- Elementary Teacher
- Middle School Teacher
- High School Teacher
- Special Education Teacher

Courses

**EDUC 500 Learning Theory** 3 Credit Hours
An overview of the teaching-learning process. Topics include learning theory, individual differences, motivation, human development, exceptionality, teaching methodology, measurement, and evaluation.

**EDUC 501 Advanced Child Development** 3 Credit Hours
An examination of physical, cognitive, spiritual and social/emotional development, and guidance of a young child.

**EDUC 504 Historical and Philosophical Foundations of Education** 3 Credit Hours
A comprehensive survey of the historical and philosophical development of education. Emphasis is placed upon analysis of religious and public educational trends in the past and present. The candidates will be required to formulate a personal, Christian worldview philosophy.

**Registration Restrictions:** Background Check Required.

**Offered:** Online

**EDUC 507 Educational Statistics** 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: EDUC 506 and Background Check Receipt with a score of 5
An examination of descriptive statistics and basic inferential statistical techniques. Also, hypothesis testing, confidence intervals and correlation techniques will be studied.

**EDUC 518 Educational Research and Assessment** 3 Credit Hours
Overview of the nature of research on human development, learning, and pedagogical knowledge and skills. Topics include current trends and issues in education, skills in data collection and assessment, and application of research in the school setting.

**EDUC 521 Foundations of Exceptionality** 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: EDUC 500
A comprehensive course dealing with the characteristics of children and youth with disabilities and topics related to models of service delivery, documentation procedures, and legal/ethical issues. Recommended as the first special education course.

**EDUC 523 Principles of Behavior Management** 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: Background Check Receipt with a score of 5

**EDUC 524 Collaborating for Successful Inclusive Classrooms** 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: EDUC 500
A study of the types and characteristics of students with learning disabilities. Emphasis will be placed on classroom intervention strategies. Field experience required.

**EDUC 525 Collaborating for Successful Transitions** 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: EDUC 500 and (Background Check Clearance with a score of 5 or Background Clear International with a score of 5 or Background Clear Out of State with a score of 5 or Background Clear Virginia with a score of 5)
A study of the characteristics of students with intellectual disabilities. Curriculum and techniques will be investigated to enable achievement of individual potential academically, socially, and functionally.

**EDUC 526 Principles and Practices in Gifted Education** 3 Credit Hours
Candidates will explore the characteristics of gifted students as well as the emotional, academic, and social needs of gifted learners, with emphasis on those from special populations. Theories and strategies for differentiating curriculum designed for gifted students in heterogeneous and homogeneous groups will be analyzed.

**EDUC 527 Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Assessment** 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: Background Check Receipt with a score of 5 and EDUC 521
This course provides an overview of autism across the lifespan and examines characteristics, definitions, eligibility criteria, incidence rates, and etiology. Assessment, diagnostic and identification criteria are described, and methods for monitoring the impact of interventions in a variety of service delivery models will be explored.

**Registration Restrictions:** Completed background check.
EDUC 528 Communication, Language and Sensory Aspects for Autism  
3 Credit Hours

**Prerequisites:** EDUC 527 and Background Check Receipt with a score of 5

This course provides students with an overview of the components of communication and strategies to increase an individual's communication abilities, with emphasis on visual aspects of language. Sensory systems, sensory processing and sensory motor development, and the implication of sensory processing when developing a complete educational program for students with autism spectrum disorders will be discussed.

EDUC 530 Teaching Mathematics  
3 Credit Hours

**Prerequisites:** EDUC 500 and (Background Check Clearance with a score of 5 or Background Clear International with a score of 5 or Background Clear Out of State with a score of 5 or Background Clear Virginia with a score of 5)

An in depth study of the theory and processes of teaching mathematics to students in preschool through eighth grade, the course includes the instructional process in the area of numeration, operations and computations, geometry and logic. Candidates will participate in hands-on, modeled instruction, will construct and demonstrate models and teaching tools, and will complete a research project.

EDUC 531 Teaching the Natural and Social Sciences  
3 Credit Hours

Using a thematic approach, the integration of sciences with other areas of the curriculum is the focus of this course. Candidates will participate in hands-on demonstration in the areas of biological and physical science, chemistry, geography, political science, and history. Candidates will generate and implement a thematic teaching unit which includes instructional activity in each of eight subject areas.

EDUC 533 Teaching Writing Across the Curriculum  
3 Credit Hours

**Prerequisites:** Background Check Receipt with a score of 5

This course investigates theories and applications of writing to learn, using writing as a means of learning in the English classroom and within the disciplines.

EDUC 535 Secondary Instructional Procedures  
3 Credit Hours

**Prerequisites:** (EDUC 500 or EDUC 501) and Background Check Clearance with a score of 5

A course in secondary methodology focusing on competencies associated with individualizing instruction, grouping students for cognitive subject-matter learning, and preparing advanced organizers for cognitive instruction. An emphasis will be placed on transferring theory into practice through selection and use of materials appropriate for the secondary classroom.

EDUC 536 Sec Instructional Procedures P  
1 Credit Hour

**Prerequisites:** EDUC 500 or EDUC 501 and Background Check Receipt with a score of 5

Micro-teaching will be used as a means of providing an opportunity for students to model and role play appropriate teaching methods and activities in the secondary school. Candidates will be required to observe in secondary classrooms, prepare a lesson, teach the lesson, and evaluate the experience.

EDUC 539 Current Issues in Content Areas  
3 Credit Hours

An examination of current content standards in a subject area. Research in the subject area will enhance content knowledge in preparation for content assessment required for teachers.

EDUC 540 Historical Perspectives in Urban Education  
3 Credit Hours

An introduction to urban education and contemporary urban life in the United States of America. Candidates will examine educational issues in urban communities and learn strategies for developing partnerships between home, school, and community.

**Note:** Course offered beginning in Spring 2020.

Offered: Online

EDUC 542 Culturally Responsive Teaching  
3 Credit Hours

An introduction to the culturally responsive teaching pedagogy that acknowledges, responds to, and celebrates cultural differences and offers equitable educational access to students from all cultural backgrounds. Students will explore the dynamics of race, class, and culture and how they affect diverse school populations.

**Note:** Course offered beginning in Spring 2020.

Offered: Online

EDUC 543 Urban Schools and Communities  
3 Credit Hours

The social context of urban communities is tied to the success of urban schools. This course will analyze the connection between urban schools and communities and provide strategies for working with families and community stakeholders to advocate for children and improve educational outcomes for students from diverse backgrounds.

**Note:** Course offered beginning in Spring 2020.

Offered: Online

EDUC 544 Research in Urban Education  
3 Credit Hours

An examination and analysis of research related to urban communities and urban education. Students will synthesize research findings to develop strategies for improved educational outcomes in urban schools.

**Note:** Course offered beginning in Spring 2020.

Offered: Online
EDUC 547 The Differentiated Classroom 3 Credit Hours
An introduction to the process of differentiation in K-12 classrooms, including differentiation of content, process, and product, in an attempt to maximize the potential for student success. Emphasis will be placed on the identification of individual student needs and learning styles.

Note: Course offered beginning in Spring 2020.

Offered: Online

EDUC 550 Directed Practicum 6 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: Background Check Receipt with a score of 5

EDUC 551 Comparative Educations 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: Background Check Receipt with a score of 5

EDUC 554 Reading and Language Acquisition 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: (Background Clear Out of State with a score of 5 or Background Clear International with a score of 5 or Background Clear Virginia with a score of 5 or Background Check Clearance with a score of 5) and Education Gate 2 with a score of 5

A study of foundations of reading and language acquisition principles, techniques, and materials for developmental reading programs. Field experience required.

Registration Restrictions: Background Check Clearance and Gate 2.

EDUC 556 Teaching Content Area Reading 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: (EDUC 500 or EDUC 501) and Background Check Receipt with a score of 5

Develops instructional competencies necessary for teaching reading and study skills essential in learning the concepts of content subjects. Applicable to teaching in grades 4-12.

EDUC 562 Introduction to Higher Education 3 Credit Hours
This course is intended to give the candidate a broad overview of the postsecondary education system in the United States. The course will examine major trends, issues, and problems facing colleges and universities from a variety of perspectives, including historical, administrative, public policy, governance, and faculty.

Offered: Online

EDUC 571 Curriculum Fundamentals 3 Credit Hours
An introduction to basic concepts and issues related to curriculum design, development, change and evaluation.

Note: To be taken the semester directly before student teaching or during student teaching.

EDUC 588 Practicum in Education I: External 0 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: Education Gate 2 with a score of 5 and (Background Check Clearance with a score of 5 or Background Clear International with a score of 5 or Background Clear Out of State with a score of 5 or Background Clear Virginia with a score of 5) and (EDUC 554 may be taken concurrently) or EDUC 566 (may be taken concurrently)

Candidates will participate in a supervised 45-hour practicum designed to link theory with practice. This practicum may be repeated one time with prior approval from the program chair.

Registration Restrictions: Background Check.

EDUC 590 Student Teaching I: Local 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: Education Gate 3 with a score of 5
Co-teaching with a responsible classroom teacher in an accredited K-12 institution and participation in professional activities. Applies what has been learned to the actual process of teaching and guiding K-12 students. Offers practice in all phases of teacher responsibility. Lab fee.

EDUC 591 Student Teaching II: Local 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: Education Gate 3 with a score of 5
Teaching in an accredited K-12 institution and participation in related professional activities. Applies what has been learned to the actual process of the classroom for which the candidate has been employed. Lab fee.

Registration Restrictions: Employment as a full-time K-12 teacher.

EDUC 592 Student Teaching I: External 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: Education Gate 3 with a score of 5
Co-teaching with a responsible classroom teacher in an accredited K-12 institution and participation in professional activities. Applies what has been learned to the actual process of teaching and guiding K-12 students. Offers practice in all phases of teacher responsibility. Lab fee.

EDUC 593 Student Teaching II: External 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: Education Gate 3 with a score of 5
Teaching in an accredited K-12 institution and participation in related professional activities. Applies what has been learned to the actual process of the classroom for which the candidate has been employed. Lab fee.

Registration Restrictions: Employment as a full-time K-12 teacher.

EDUC 598 Field Experience Practicum 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: Background Check Clearance with a score of 5 or Background Clear International with a score of 5 or Background Clear Out of State with a score of 5 or Background Clear Virginia with a score of 5
This course will be used to provide field experiences for students desiring licensure in conjunction with certificate programs.

Offered: Online
EDUC 600 Human Development Across the Lifespan  
3 Credit Hours

This course includes a survey of the organic, social, and physical factors that influence the development of the individual. It seeks to understand what makes a person distinctively different along with a critical evaluation of various theories of learning and personality development, particularly as they relate to questions of values and religious commitment.

EDUC 601 Professional Development in Middle Grades Education  
3 Credit Hours

This class will heighten Middle Grade Educators’ understanding of their personal pedagogy by encouraging reflective practice through individualized and collaborative professional development opportunities.

Registration Restrictions: Background Check Required.

EDUC 602 Young Adolescents, Schools and Communities  
3 Credit Hours

An overview of the characteristics and issues related to transescence and their implications for educational practice. Understanding of preadolescent physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual development will be applied to school processes and the teacher’s interaction with middle school students and families.

Registration Restrictions: Background Check Required.

EDUC 603 Comparative Education  
3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: Background Check Receipt with a score of 5

A study of selected national systems of education in their differing cultural settings, with particular reference to administration, curriculum development and educational opportunity.

Offered: Resident

EDUC 604 Foundations of Education  
3 Credit Hours

This course is a comprehensive survey of the historical development of education. Emphasis is placed on American education and the emergence of the Christian School Movement.

Registration Restrictions: Background check.

EDUC 606 Tests and Measurements  
3 Credit Hours

Focuses on the development of the ability to evaluate and interpret standardized tests, and to construct, evaluate and interpret the results of teacher-made tests. (Formerly EDUC 506)

EDUC 608 Technological Appl in Educ Res  
3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: EDUC 506 and EDUC 507 and EDUC 508 and Background Check Receipt with a score of 5

EDUC 618 Applications of Educational Research  
3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: EDUC 518 and Background Check Receipt with a score of 5

Principles and techniques in the utilization of research methods to solve problems and answer questions in educational settings. This course requires completion of a major research project, along with demonstration of skills is using technology as a tool in qualitative and quantitative educational research and assessment.

EDUC 620 Organization and Design of Gifted Education Programs  
3 Credit Hours

Candidates will examine model programs for gifted students that include organizational strategies for heterogeneous and homogeneous groupings. The study will include programs that are field specific, integrated content, and extracurricular models. Strategies for securing funding for gifted programs will be explored.

EDUC 621 Educational Assessment for Special Needs  
3 Credit Hours

This course examines the processes and strategies for assessing students with special needs.

Registration Restrictions: Background Check.

EDUC 622 Educational Assessment and Intervention  
3 Credit Hours

A study of the techniques and procedures of educational identification and intervention strategies, collaboration, and referral. Field experience required.

Registration Restrictions: Background Check Required.

EDUC 623 Principles of Behavior Management  
3 Credit Hours

An examination of the principles of behavior management as applied to children and youth in the classroom setting. Positive approaches for dealing with behavior problems are emphasized. Contemporary research in the area is analyzed and discussed.

Registration Restrictions: Background Check Required.

EDUC 624 Instructional Methods for Behavior and Learning  
3 Credit Hours

This course will explore research and instructional approaches and methods for managing behaviors effectively. Emphasis will be placed on individualized, classroom and school-wide behavior support to prepare candidates for the special education classroom as well as student’s going into the general education classrooms and community settings.

Offered: Online
EDUC 625 Content Instructional Procedures 3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: Education Gate 2 with a score of 5 and (Background Clear Out of State with a score of 5 or Background Clear Virginia with a score of 5 or Background Clear International with a score of 5 or Background Check Clearance with a score of 5)

A course in content methodology focusing on competencies associated with individualizing instruction, grouping students for cognitive subject-matter learning, and preparing advanced organizers for cognitive instruction. An emphasis will be placed on transferring theory into practice through selection and use of materials appropriate for the secondary classroom.

Registration Restrictions: Background Check Clearance and Gate 2.

EDUC 626 Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Assessment 3 Credit Hours

This course provides an overview of autism across the lifespan and examines characteristics, definitions, eligibility criteria, incidence rates, and etiology. Assessment, diagnostic and identification criteria are described, and methods for monitoring the impact of interventions in a variety of service delivery models will be explored.

Registration Restrictions: Completed background check.

EDUC 627 Reading and Research in Gifted Education 3 Credit Hours

Candidates will explore the contemporary issues and research in gifted education including the systematic gathering, analyzing, and reporting of formative and summative data and current issues on a local, state, and national level.

EDUC 628 Communication, Language and Sensory Aspects for Autism 3 Credit Hours

This course provides students with an overview of the components of communication and strategies to increase an individual’s communication abilities, with emphasis on visual aspects of language. Sensory systems, sensory processing and sensory motor development, and the implication of sensory processing when developing a complete educational program for students with autism spectrum disorders will be discussed.

Registration Restrictions: Background check required.

EDUC 629 Technology and Diversity 3 Credit Hours

This course focuses on the nature of individual learners as it impacts instructional design with the use of technology in education. Specifically, the course covers topics on tools, methods and approaches to meet learning needs of children with special learning, those of differing socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, and those of varying learning styles and preferences. The course attempts to bridge the gap between theoretical implications and practical applications of diversity considerations in the context of educational technology integration.

Registration Restrictions: Background Check Receipt.

EDUC 630 Technology Practices for Instructional Improvement 3 Credit Hours

This course has students research and engage best practices in educational technology usage for the purposes of inclusion in instructional practice for student learning and for assessment of student achievement as a result of instruction. Students practice and demonstrate competency in using productivity tools for professional and pedagogical practice. Further, students will develop means of effectively using technologies for communication and collaboration to improve teaching and learning.

EDUC 631 Foundations of Educational Technology and Online Learning 3 Credit Hours

An introduction to the historical, theoretical, and philosophical foundations of educational technology and online learning systems; an overview of education technologies including online, classroom, and administrative; and an examination of effective techniques for teaching and learning within these systems.

EDUC 632 Language Acquisition and Instruction 3 Credit Hours

A study of the major perspectives on the acquisition of oral and written language, including language differences and difficulties; methods of evaluating oral and written language performance; and strategies for improving the quality and quantity of oral and written language in classroom settings. Field experience required. (Formerly EDUC 532)

EDUC 633 Principles of Design and Management in Educational Technology and Online Learning 3 Credit Hours

This course is designed to assist the education professional in developing a solid foundation in instructional design and current research. The student will develop the skills and knowledge to advance their instructional effectiveness in varied settings through application of technology theory and practice.

EDUC 634 Teaching Science in the Elementary School 3 Credit Hours

Contemporary methods and research for teaching science to elementary-aged students.

EDUC 635 Teaching Science in the Middle School 3 Credit Hours

Contemporary methods and research for teaching science to middle school students.

EDUC 636 Teaching Social Studies in the Elementary School 3 Credit Hours

An analysis of trends and practices of teaching social studies in the elementary school. An emphasis will be made on how to transfer theory into practice through preparation of activities and materials appropriate for the elementary classroom and critical reflection on those very materials and approaches. Students will plan instruction considering student-based diversity, instructional demands of the field and the best integration of other tools and disciplines. Teaching candidates will be required to prepare these instructional elements focused on the Virginia Standards of Learning.
EDUC 637 Teaching Social Studies in the Middle School 3 Credit Hours
An analysis of trends and practices of teaching social studies in the middle school, and its contextual relationship to elementary and secondary instruction in social science. An emphasis will be made on how to transfer theory into practice through preparation of activities and materials appropriate for the elementary classroom and critical reflection on those very material and approaches. Students will plan instruction considering student-based diversity, instructional demands of the field and the best integration of other tools and disciplines.

EDUC 638 Leadership in Educational Technology 3 Credit Hours
This course will examine the roles of leadership in community, leadership in administration and leadership in the schools from a Christian worldview. This course will provide educators with both the theoretical and the practical considerations for planning and implementing technology, particularly computer applications, in schools. Basic concepts of technology and planning that use systems theory are presented. Emphasis is placed on the importance of the total application of technology as opposed to any individual component, be it hardware, software, facilities, personnel, or finances. This course will form a foundation from which educators will provide leadership and become agents for realizing the powerful potential of technology in their schools.

EDUC 639 Trends and Issues in Educational Technology 3 Credit Hours
Trends and Issues examines current trends in the research area of educational technology, having students engage literature to understand theoretical underpinnings of the field, current research projects in effect, and future trends as technology in learning evolves as a practice and as a research interest. The course uses foundational concepts of learning in the fields of psychology, sociology and educational research to understand critical implications of the current body of literature.

EDUC 640 School Administration 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: Background Check Clearance with a score of 5 or Background Clear International with a score of 5 or Background Clear Out of State with a score of 5 or Background Clear Virginia with a score of 5
An examination of the administration roles in the design, implementation and improvement of the total educational program in private and public schools. Specific areas of study include curriculum and instruction, pupil and staff personnel, student activities, school organization and management.

EDUC 641 Supervision of Instruction 3 Credit Hours
Methods, theories and research applying to supervision at all levels of education: analyses made concerning the work of curriculum directors, general supervisors, special supervisors, supervising principals department heads; study of supervisory methods, current plans for staff utilization and use of instructional materials; and stress on evaluation of educational programs and the effects of supervision.

EDUC 642 Leadership and Supervision in Education 3 Credit Hours
Methods, theories and research applying to supervision and leadership: analyses made concerning the work of curriculum directors, general supervisors, special supervisors, and department heads; study of supervisory methods current plans for staff utilization and use of instructional materials; and stress on evaluation of educational programs and the effects of supervision.

EDUC 643 Contemporary Issues in Educational Policy 3 Credit Hours
This course examines current issues and trends in education. Emphasis will be placed on how policy at the federal, state, and district levels affect the school-level decision-making process.

EDUC 644 School Leadership in Diverse Settings 3 Credit Hours
This course focuses on differences in educational leadership in diverse settings to include: private, charter, and traditional public schools with a focus on urban schools, as well as alternative and online schools.

EDUC 645 Foundations for Educational Leaders 3 Credit Hours
A study in the philosophy, precepts, and principles of education applied to Christian leadership in the educational setting. Emphasis is placed on self-investigation and analysis of leadership skills, strengths, and styles.

EDUC 646 School-Community Relations 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: Background Check Clearance with a score of 5 or Background Clear International with a score of 5 or Background Clear Out of State with a score of 5 or Background Clear Virginia with a score of 5
Concepts and specific techniques in school-community relations involving the development and maintenance of purposeful programs of communication and collaboration between school personnel and the community. Includes appropriate field projects relating theory to practice.

EDUC 647 School Law 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: Background Clear Out of State with a score of 5 or Background Clear Virginia with a score of 5 or Background Clear International with a score of 5 or Background Check Clearance with a score of 5
An examination of the legal aspects of education affecting administrators, teachers, students, parents and board members; various forms of liability; separation of church and state.

EDUC 648 School Finance and Management 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisites: EDUC 641 and (Background Clear Out of State with a score of 5 or Background Clear Virginia with a score of 5 or Background Clear International with a score of 5 or Background Check Clearance with a score of 5)
Basic methods of school finance and business management and principles of plant, finance, budgeting and accounting will be discussed. Federal and State regulations and grants will be studied.
EDUC 650 Specialists for Reading/Math Programs  3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: Background Clear Out of State with a score of 5 or Background Clear Virginia with a score of 5 or Background Clear International with a score of 5 or Background Check Clearance with a score of 5

An investigation of research-based intervention for reading or math programs. The role of the reading or math specialist to the total school program is also examined. Field experience required. Program Specialists: To be taken the semester directly before or during internship.

Note: May be repeated for credit.

EDUC 652 Current Issues in Reading/Math  3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: Background Check Clearance with a score of 5 or Background Clear International with a score of 5 or Background Clear Out of State with a score of 5 or Background Clear Virginia with a score of 5

An examination of current standards and exploration of controversies related to reading or math programs. Program Specialists: To be taken the semester directly before or during internship.

Note: May be repeated for credit.

EDUC 653 Current Issues in Early Childhood Education  3 Credit Hours

An examination of current standards and exploration of controversies related to early childhood education.

Registration Restrictions: Background Check Receipt.

EDUC 655 Organization and Administration of Pre-Schools  3 Credit Hours

Philosophy, objectives and methods for organizing and operating a kindergarten, nursery school, day-care center and play group for children below six years of age. Also includes the planning of pre-school facilities and the selection of equipment and personnel.

EDUC 656 Teaching Content Area Reading  3 Credit Hours

Develops instructional competencies necessary for teaching reading and study skills essential in learning the concepts of content subjects. Applicable to teaching in grades 4-12.

EDUC 659 Foundations and Theories of Literacy Instruction  3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: EDUC 701 or Background Check Clearance with a score of 5 or Background Clear International with a score of 5 or Background Clear Out of State with a score of 5 or Background Clear Virginia with a score of 5

A study of the major theories, models, and components of literacy. Foundational knowledge will be utilized to design effective literacy instruction. Field experience is required.

Offered: Online

EDUC 663 Social and Political Aspects in Higher Education  3 Credit Hours

This survey course introduces students to the major social and political issues and trends facing contemporary higher education in the United States. Students examine, discuss, and debate various perspectives on critical issues at postsecondary campuses.

Offered: Online

EDUC 664 Economics and Finance of Higher Education  3 Credit Hours

This course is an introductory survey of financial and economic issues in higher education. Students will learn about these issues in relation to three primary levels: students and families, institutions, and the postsecondary industry at large.

Offered: Online

EDUC 665 Student Support Services & Retention  3 Credit Hours

This course discusses approaches to optimizing post-secondary student outcomes, particularly in support of critical programs designed to meet students’ academic, developmental and economic needs. Topics include orientation programming, academic support, student retention, campus life, academic advising, and career guidance, among others.

Offered: Online

EDUC 668 Teaching Mathematics in the Middle School  3 Credit Hours

This course will explore, develop, and use instructional strategies, technologies, and activities to promote development of attitudes and concepts in mathematics. Emphasis is on mathematical teaching and learning practices anchored in mathematical concepts, diagnostic and assessment methods, and leadership skills.

EDUC 669 Teaching Literacy in the Middle School  3 Credit Hours

This course focuses on promoting the middle level learner’s literacy development. Emphasis is placed on current theories, models, and methods of teaching, learning and communicating through the language processes of reading, writing, listening and speaking in the content areas. Students will explore, analyze, and critique research in reading, and the relationship of other disciplines to reading in the context of the middle school.

EDUC 670 Curriculum and Methods for Early Childhood  3 Credit Hours

The course is designed to show current trends in curriculum organization, the effects of environment on learning and adapting curriculum content and methods to maturity level of the young child. Emphasis will be placed on designing individual educational programs for all children.

EDUC 671 Curriculum Evaluation  3 Credit Hours

A study of the curriculum evaluation process focusing on the beliefs and practices of curriculum evaluation, the relationship between evaluation and curriculum improvement, and the relationship between theory and practice of curriculum evaluation.
EDUC 672 Curriculum Development (Elementary/Secondary)  
3 Credit Hours

A study of the construction, organization and function of the curriculum. Special attention is given to objectives, sequence, major problems and recent developments in each school program area.

Registration Restrictions: Background Check Clearance or Receipt.

EDUC 673 Curriculum and Methods for Effective Instruction  
3 Credit Hours

A review of the history of education as it affects the development across schools. Emphasis on characteristics of preadolescents, personalizing curriculum for the K12 student, and strategies for motivating curriculum improvement planning to involve teachers and community.

Registration Restrictions: Background Check Required.

EDUC 675 Elementary Curriculum and Methods  
3 Credit Hours

An overview of the current issues and trends in the field of elementary teaching and curriculum.

EDUC 676 Middle Grades Curriculum and Methods  
3 Credit Hours

An overview of the current issues and trends in the field of middle grades teaching and curriculum.

EDUC 678 Practicum in Education II: External  
0 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: Education Gate 2 with a score of 5 and (Background Check Clearance with a score of 5 or Background Clear International with a score of 5 or Background Clear Out of State with a score of 5 or Background Clear Virginia with a score of 5) and (EDUC 530 (may be taken concurrently) or EDUC 625 (may be taken concurrently))

Candidates will participate in a supervised 45-hour practicum designed to link theory with practice. This practicum may be repeated one time with prior approval from the program chair.

Registration Restrictions: Background Check.

EDUC 690 Thesis Defense  
3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: EDUC 518 and Background Check Receipt with a score of 5

Research project completed on an educational topic related to the concentration in the master’s degree. Credit is not awarded until the thesis has been accepted.

EDUC 695 Directed Research  
1-6 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: Background Check Receipt with a score of 5

Offers opportunity and challenge of self-directive, independent study; that is, it develops the individual’s ability as an independent student and enables the student to pursue needed study or to pursue a particular interest (thesis or project). May be repeated for credit to a maximum of 6 hours.

EDUC 696 Current Issues in Education Capstone  
3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: Non-Licensure Gate 3 with a score of 5 or EDUC 665

This is a capstone course. It should be the last course taken. An examination of current issues in the field of education with classroom implications and case study.

EDUC 697 Seminar in Education  
3-6 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: Background Check Receipt with a score of 5

Topics of special interest not included in the regular department offerings, may be taken more than once, but no topic may be repeated.

EDUC 698 Directed Practicum  
3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: (Background Clear Virginia with a score of 5 or Background Clear International with a score of 5 or Background Clear Out of State with a score of 5 or Background Check Clearance with a score of 5) and Non-Licensure Gate 3 with a score of 5

A planned program of practice in an educational setting under the direct supervision of University faculty and/or appropriate school administrator. May be repeated to a maximum of six hours.

Note: Completed application and approval of Department Chair.

EDUC 699 Internship  
3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: Advanced Gate 3 with a score of 5

Requires completion of the projects and minimum number of hours as specified in proposal. May be repeated to a maximum of six hours. (A01: Administration/Supervision; A02: School Counseling; A03: Program Specialist)

Note: Proposal submitted one semester in advance and approved by the Chair of the Graduate Program.