

### FAQs: Advising for MAT Middle Grades (Initial Licensure)

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
<b>Where can I get current program documents including information about student information about student</b>	Information about your program, course schedule, student teaching, etc., may be found in the online Advising Guide on the following website <a href="http://www.liberty.edu/advisingguide">www.liberty.edu/advisingguide</a> .
<b>How do I find out who my advisor is?</b>	All School of Education candidates share a group of LUO advisors who work together to give you consistent answers about your program. You can contact your LUO advisor by phone or email: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-800-424-9595</li> <li>• <a href="mailto:LUOAdvising@liberty.edu">LUOAdvising@liberty.edu</a></li> </ul>
<b>Is previous teaching experience or education coursework required for the middle grades program?</b>	The MAT Middle Grades program is an INITIAL licensure program. No previous teaching experience or education coursework is required.  You can add a middle school endorsement for individual subjects for math, English, social studies or science by passing the Praxis II for the desired subject area.
<b>What content competencies are required for the middle grades program?</b>	Candidates for initial teaching licensure must complete all content competencies in at least ONE of the specific content areas (English, Math, Science or History/ Social Science) AND must document at least 21 semester hours spread throughout that selected content area. Additional content areas may be chosen; however 21 semester hours are required for each selected content area. All competencies must be completed <i>prior</i> to student teaching. See <a href="#">Content Competencies</a> (Middle Grades 6-8 Content PDF) in the Advising Guide.
<b>Is an on-campus residence required for the MAT Middle Grades program?</b>	While optional intensives are available, candidates are able to complete all required graduate courses in the online format (note that practicums will be required in certain courses, and the MAT degree culminates in a 300-hour student teaching semester).

<p><b>Can student teaching be waived?</b></p>	<p>Student teaching cannot be waived, but there are two options to complete the degree at Liberty:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Register for EDUC 590/592 and fulfill student teaching requirements for licensure. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If you are currently employed as a full-time contractual middle grades teacher in a public school or an accredited private school, your current position may serve as your student teaching. You will enroll in EDUC 591/593 and complete all of the student teaching course assignments under the supervision of an on-site mentor.</li> <li>b. If your employment is not in an accredited school, you should make arrangements to complete the student teaching in an accredited school, perhaps through a leave of absence or in a year-round school during the summer.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. If a leave of absence or time in a year-round school during the summer cannot be arranged, you may register for EDUC 696 and complete the degree without licensure (“opt out”). We can verify that you completed the coursework but did not complete the student teaching under LU supervision. It is possible to earn licensure at a later date by completing the student teaching requirement (within a 5 year time period).</li> <li>3. <i>Note:</i> All MAT Middle grades degree requirements must be completed. Otherwise the candidate must change to the M.Ed. in Curriculum &amp; Instruction (<b>non-licensure</b>).</li> </ol>
<p><b>Must I quit my job to do student teaching?</b></p>	<p>The student teacher candidate is required to work a full time schedule at the school site. The student teacher candidate is also required to attend ‘after hours’ activities such as after school professional development workshops, faculty meetings, evening PTA meetings, etc. Lastly, the student teacher candidate is, of course, required to create lesson plans, gather and prepare materials for instruction, and grade student assignments in a timely manner. Therefore, it is recommended that student teacher candidates keep outside commitments to a minimum and that they limit work to 15 hours per week or less on weekends.</p>
<p><b>How long must student teaching be?</b></p>	<p>Minimum of the following documented field experience hours required for middle grades student teachers: 300 hours of with 150 hours of direct teaching</p> <p><b>“Early field experiences”</b> are experiential learning opportunities throughout the program to give candidates short practical experiences as middle grades teachers. These can be accumulated as the candidate completes course benchmark assignments in collaboration with schools before the formal student teaching semester. Whatever the balance is must be completed during the formal student teaching.</p> <p>The <b>student teaching</b> is more structured than the early field experiences, requiring specified projects and a competency-based portfolio. A MINIMUM of 300 cumulative field experience hours is required. The formal student teaching is concentrated into one semester (16 weeks).</p>
<p><b>Who will supervise my student teaching?</b></p>	<p>Student Teaching Supervisors must be licensed and experienced teachers (minimum 3 years) with a graduate degree.</p> <p>You will have two supervisors in your student teaching:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Your On-site Supervisor (OSS) will assist you in your school setting.</li> </ol> <p>Your Student Teaching Course Professor (LU Supervisor) will grade student teaching assignments that you submit through Blackboard and LiveText.</p>

<p><b>I already have a master's degree and don't want another one. Can I just take the courses I lack for licensure as a middle grades teacher?</b></p>	<p><b>FOR LIBERTY GRADUATES:</b> If you have already earned an MAT degree from Liberty, you may take just the courses needed for licensure, and Liberty will process the licensure documents for you. However, we strongly encourage you to earn the additional degree as the coursework will be the equivalent or nearly the equivalent of an additional degree.</p> <p><b>FOR ALL OTHERS:</b> The following two options are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>OPTION 1 [recommended]:</b> Enroll in the Ed.S. in Curriculum &amp; Instruction and complete the additional licensure requirements listed at the bottom of the Degree Completion Plan. This provides a twofold benefit to you: (1) you will most likely be paid a higher salary because of the Ed.S. degree, and (2) you will have obtained the license for elementary teachers.</li> <li>• <b>OPTION 2 [NOT recommended]:</b> The candidate takes only the courses needed for licensure and submits the transcript to the department of education. [Candidates who need more than 6 credits for licensure must apply to a degree program even if they plan to stop after completing the courses required for licensure.]</li> </ul>
<p><b>After completing this program, are there any other requirements necessary before I can work in a school system?</b></p>	<p>Upon completion of the degree requirements, including student teaching and licensure tests, you will submit licensure paperwork and fees as explained during the student teaching. All licensure paperwork is submitted to:</p> <p>Liberty University, School of Education, Licensure Office, 1971 University Blvd., Lynchburg, VA 24502 E-mail: <a href="mailto:teacher@liberty.edu">teacher@liberty.edu</a></p>
<p><b>My state requires a "certificate." How does this compare to the VA "license" as a middle grades teacher?</b></p>	<p>Liberty's MAT Middle grades program is approved for a VA license, which is reciprocated in other states. Virginia uses the term "license," but it is the same credential as a "certificate."</p>
<p><b>Will my license be valid in other states?</b></p>	<p>You have two choices to apply for licensure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You may submit the licensure application for your state (usually available on your state's Department of Education website). Our Licensure Office will prepare the verification that you have completed a state-approved program. In most states, there are no other requirements for licensure. In some states you will need to take a state-specific test. There may also be a state-specific course to be completed during your first year of employment.</li> <li>2. You may submit the application for Virginia licensure and then apply for licensure in your state. This is the recommended route if you are not sure where you will be teaching.</li> </ol>
<p><b>What are the exact licensure requirements for my program?</b></p>	<p>Go to the following website and look under the Middle grades program requirements: <a href="http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Compliance/TeacherED/nulicvr.pdf">http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Compliance/TeacherED/nulicvr.pdf</a>. The main aspects of these requirements are provided below.</p> <p><b>(FOR NON-VIRGINIANS:</b> Our licensure programs are approved by the state of Virginia and are reciprocated by other states. Some of our non-Virginia candidates choose to apply directly for their own state's license. After your student teaching is complete, you may submit your own state's application for licensure to LU's licensure office.</p>

<b>How can I add a middle school endorsement to my elementary education license?</b>	<p>There are two ways to add a middle school endorsement to your elementary education license:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-STATE APPROVED PROGRAM WAY (preferred)<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. do at least one placement (practicum or student teaching) in a middle school setting – grades 6 through 8 -- (specific hours are not mentioned anymore on the new FES)</li><li>2. have content competencies passed for Gate 2 in the middle school area (at least 21 credits in each subject area in which you are planning to seek a middle school endorsement)</li><li>3. take EDUC 673 or 676</li><li>4. pass middle school Praxis II for the content area he/she is seeking</li></ol></li><li>-FOR VA LICENSE ONLY<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. pass middle school Praxis II for the content area he/she is seeking</li></ol></li></ul>
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