

## Appalachian State University Off-Campus Program MA degree in Middle Grades Education

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction offers the Master of Arts degree in Middle Grades Education. The program seeks to prepare teachers who:

- \*Are knowledgeable about the developmental characteristics of young adolescents and are able to conceptualize and apply that knowledge in the classroom;
- \*Are knowledgeable about at least one subject area;
- \*Possess a clear, research-based knowledge of developmentally responsive instruction and schooling;
- \*Have the specialized skills and knowledge needed to provide middle grades students with effective instruction; and,
- \*Demonstrate a dedication to middle grades education based on an accurate middle grades knowledge base.

The courses required for the MA degree in Middle Grades Education will be delivered to the designated off-campus site. Appalachian State University faculty will teach each course; and, a combination of instructional strategies and course delivery systems may be employed. The modes of delivery may include: the instructor's being present at the site, web-based instruction, and/or live interactive two-way, audio-video sessions via the North Carolina Information Highway (NCIH) network. Generally, two courses will be provided each term, and the face-to-face courses will be conducted either during the evenings (e.g., 5:00-7:45 pm one evening a week for 15 weeks) or on weekends (e.g., five Saturdays [one each month] 9:00 am to 5:00 pm). The program will be cohort-based, meaning the group of identified students who enter this program will begin together and continue through the specified sequence of required courses leading to the degree. The courses in this cohort will be offered only once, so a student must be prepared to take the courses as they are made available.

### Benefits of the MA Degree in Middle Grades Education

Requirements for this degree were designed, and have been approved by the appropriate bodies at the state level, to meet the advanced competencies as mandated in the North Carolina Excellent Schools Act for Master-level teacher education programs. This program leads to the graduate-level "M" Grades 6-9 licensure. Those entering the program must already hold a valid "A" teaching license, but it does not have to be a middle grades license.

Based on the 2003-04 pay scale, the 10% teacher pay increase for a master's degree can mean about \$108,000 in extra earnings over a 30-year career; and, the increase in salary directly affects future retirement and Social Security benefits, as well. We recommend prospects check with their central offices regarding the benefits of having the master's degree in Middle Grades Education.

## Courses in the Off-Campus MA degree in Middle Grades Education

**39 semester hours are required**

### **Core Courses:**

CI/SPE 5045	Advanced Topics in Diversity
CI 5055	Connecting Learners and Subject Matter
CI 5525	Product of Learning
CI/LHE 5585	Teacher Leadership & School Improvements
CI 5600	Middle School Philosophy & Organization
CI 5750	Teaching Young Adolescents
CI 5850	Middle School Curriculum
CI/FDN	Research course
CI/FDN	Technology course

### **Academic Concentration Courses:**

Degree candidates select a concentration from the following areas: Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, or Mathematics. These courses (11-12 semester hours) are typically not offered as a part of the off-campus program.

### **Middle Grades Teaching Experience:**

Students entering without previous teaching experience in middle grades must successfully complete CI 5900 Internship (3 SH), which may result in the total number of hours exceeding 39.

## Requirements for Admission

To be considered for admission to this program an individual must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and hold a North Carolina "A" teaching license or the equivalent from another state (it is not required that the "A" license be middle grades). In addition to the application form, applicants must present Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores or Miller's Analogies Test (MAT) scores and three letters of recommendation. A candidate will be selected based upon the strength of her/his undergraduate career, GRE or MAT test scores, and endorsements expressed in the letters of recommendation.

## Application Process

The Graduate School Application (and the \$35 non-refundable application fee) and all supporting transcripts and letters of recommendation should be submitted to:

Office of Extension and Distance Education  
Appalachian State University  
PO Box 32054  
Boone, NC 28608

The GRE test scores or MAT test scores should be submitted directly to:

Cratis D. Williams Graduate School  
Appalachian State University  
PO Box 32068  
Boone, NC 28608

Applicants are typically notified within one month following receipt of all application information.

## Costs

Tuition and fees for the 2003-04 academic year are as follow:

**In-State \$ 87.25 per semester hr.**  
**Out-of-State \$553.25 per semester hr.**

Textbooks and any supplementary materials required for courses are not included in these expenses. For continuing off-campus students, complete information regarding textbooks is listed in the online Schedule of Off-Campus Courses prior to each term. The services of the University Bookstore are available to off-campus students, and books can be shipped to a student's home address for a nominal charge.

## TO CONTACT US

### For an application packet contact:

**Peri David**  
**Office of Extension and Distance Education**  
**Appalachian State University**  
**P. O. Box 32054**  
**Boone, NC 28608**

**Phone**  
**(800) 355-4084 or (828) 262-3113**

**Fax**  
**(828) 265-8673**

**E-Mail Address:**  
**davidwp@appstate.edu (for Peri David)**

**Website: [www.ext-dl.appstate.edu](http://www.ext-dl.appstate.edu)**

### Questions regarding the academic program may be addressed to:

**Dr. Ken McEwin**  
**Department of Curriculum & Instruction**  
**Appalachian State University**  
**Edwin Duncan Hall**  
**Boone, NC 28608**

**Phone:**  
**(828) 262-2200**

**E-Mail Address:**  
**mcewinck@appstate.edu**

Appalachian State University is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students or employees on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disabling condition or sexual orientation. Moreover, Appalachian is open to people of all races and actively seeks to promote racial integration by recruiting and enrolling a larger number of African-American students.



## Off-Campus Program

# MA

# Degree

in

# Middle

# Grades

# Education

## Grades 6-9

## Graduate Licensure

**Appalachian**  
STATE UNIVERSITY