M.S in Elementary Education – Program Course Sequence

Program Course Sequence

Required General Education Courses:
- Quantitative Reasoning: Choose STAT 180 (formerly MATH 200) and one of these courses only: MATH 110, 115A, 120, 121, 122, 28
- Natural Science (1 two course sequence, lab experience required) BIOL121-132, BIOL125-126, BIOL121-127, BIOL121-128, BIOL125-128, CHEM105-106, CHEM105-107, CHEM111-112, EESC110-EESC112, EESC111-112, EESC111-EESC210, EESC111-221, PHYS101-102, PHYS101-108, PHYS105-106, PHYS105-110
- Human Experience and Society: LING 101 and HIST 131
- Global Inquiry: GEOG 101

Required Undergraduate and Graduate Courses:

- **EDUC 203 Introduction to Teaching and Learning**: Elementary (3 credits) Required 20-hour practicum
  A survey course – each of the major topics (classroom management, student motivation, curriculum, instruction, and professionalism) introduced in this course will be examined more thoroughly in both content and field experience in subsequent course work and practica.

- **EDUC 303 Scientific Inquiry** (3 credits) Required 20-hour practicum
  Prerequisite: EDUC 203. Planning and instructional skills for teaching science in the elementary classroom. Provides students training and practice in using an assortment of developmentally appropriate teaching methods for elementary level science. Also provides students with an understanding of the current Virginia Standards of Learning for Elementary Science and how instruction may be designed to meet the requirements of those Standards.

- **MATH 204 Mathematical Concepts and Methods I** (4 credits) Required 30-hour practicum
  Prerequisite: EDUC 203. Mathematical concepts and methods of teaching for the elementary school. Topics include number systems and their properties, problem solving, and topics in number theory. Course intended for students certifying to teach grades PreK-6.

- **EDUC 305 Mathematical Concepts and Methods II** (3 credits) Required 20-hour practicum
  Prerequisites: EDUC 203 and MATH 204. Mathematical concepts and methods of teaching for the elementary school. Topics include geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. Field experience required.

- **EDUC 311 Literature and the Arts in the Elementary Classroom** (3 credits)
  Prerequisite: EDUC 203. Educational approaches that encourage children’s expressive development through the integration of literature, the arts, and media throughout the elementary curriculum. Students will read a variety of genres of children’s literature and learn basic information about dance, drama, visual arts, and music, as well as strategies for teaching science, math, social studies, reading and language using children’s literature and these art forms.

- **EDUC 371 Language Development and Literacy Instruction: Primary** (3 credits) Required 20-hour practicum
  Prerequisite: EDUC 203. Study of language development and learner-sensitive approaches to early childhood literacy instruction for emerging readers. Focus is on teaching and assessment strategies for literacy instruction in the primary grades (K-2).

- **EDUC 373 Language Development and Literacy Instruction: Intermediate** (3 credits) Required 20-hour practicum
  Prerequisites: EDUC 203 and EDUC 371. Focus is on teaching and assessment strategies for literacy instruction in the upper elementary grades (3-6). Course emphasizes how to effectively utilize literacy workstations, guided reading, word study, spelling instruction and vocabulary exploration to optimize...
children’s learning and development across the curriculum, and addresses the language and literacy needs of students who do not speak English as their first language.

- **EDUC 386 Elementary Social Studies Methods** (3 credits)
  Prerequisite: EDUC 203. Teacher candidates will learn the major orientations to the social studies and their corresponding methods. Emphasis is on researching, writing, and implementing lessons that teach for understanding and inspire critical thinking.

- **EDUC 387 Introduction to Special Education: Elementary** (3 credits)
  Prerequisite: EDUC 203 or 204. The characteristics of learners with disabilities in elementary classrooms and their educational implications are examined, as well as the cultural, familial, and ethical issues involved. The course also presents an overview of the regulatory and legal requirements related to special education.

- **EDUC 388 Managing the Elementary Classroom** (3 credits) Required 20-hour practicum
  Prerequisite: EDUC 203 or 204. Teacher candidates will learn a variety of approaches to elementary classroom management. Emphasis is on establishing a classroom community, working with difficult children, and communicating with parents.

- **EDUC 420 The Professional Teacher and Critical Issues in Education** (3 credits)
  Prerequisites: EDUC 203 or 204, and at least two additional education courses. Prospective teachers become independent, reflective decision makers by critically examining the philosophical, ethical, historical, legal, and social contexts of the American school.

- **BIOL 203 Science in Perspective** (3 credits)
  Prerequisites: Restricted to students accepted into the M.S in Elementary Education program and who have completed one of the following two semester sequences in science: BIOL 121-132; BIOL 125-126; BIOL 121-127; BIOL 121-128, CHEM 105-106; CHEM 105-107; CHEM 111-112; EESC 110-GEOL 112; GEOL 111-112; GEOL 111-EESC 210; GEOL 111-221; PHYS 101-102; PHYS 101-108; PHYS 105-106; PHYS 105-110. Designed to fulfill the need for non-science majors to have a clear understanding and appreciation of natural and scientific phenomenon. Topics will be presented in a manner that will challenge students to reason, make appropriate connections between various science disciplines and to effectively communicate and apply scientific principles. The course will consist of lecture/discussions and student presentations. In addition, emphasis will be placed on reading and understanding current scientific literature. Does not count toward biology major.

- **EDUC 510 The Inclusive Classroom** (4 credits)
  Prerequisite: Admission to the M.S. degree program. Study of instructional methods to differentiate the curriculum and academic environment for learners with and without special needs. Field experience required.

- **EDUC 514 Models of Instruction** (4 credits) Required 30-hour practicum
  This course challenges students to delve deeply into theories of learning and development and their application to elementary teaching. Students are asked to think critically about how to use particular theories of learning and models of instruction, and their application to diverse learner needs.

- **EDUC 521 Educational Research Methods** (2 credits)
  Prerequisite: Admission to the M.S. degree program, Master of Education Initial Licensure 5-year Pathway: Secondary or Master of Education Initial Licensure 5-year Pathways: PreK-12. Study of research techniques, and methodology as preparation to conduct classroom- based teacher research.

- **EDUC 530 Master’s Research** (3 credits)
  Prerequisite: Successful completion of the first semester of coursework and practicum experience in the M.S. in Elementary Education program, Master of Education Initial Licensure 5-year Pathway: Secondary or Master of Education Initial Licensure 5-year Pathway: PreK-12. Implementation of action research project in an elementary school classroom and final preparation of a research project.
- **EDUC 539 Graduate Internship Seminar** (1 credit)
  Prerequisite: Successful completion of the first semester of coursework and practicum experience in the M.S. in Elementary Education program. Corequisite: EDUC 540. Students meet to discuss internship work and experiences, hear from guest speakers including public school personnel and graduates from the M.S. in Elementary Education now working as teachers, review and update internship assignments and expectations, and develop portfolios.

- **EDUC 540 Teaching Internship** (12 credits) *
  Prerequisite: Successful completion of the first semester of coursework and practicum experience in the M.S. in Elementary Education program, Master of Education Initial Licensure 5-year Pathway: Secondary or Master of Education Initial Licensure 5-year Pathway: PreK-12. Corequisite for Master of Education Initial Licensure 5-year Pathway: Secondary or Master of Education Initial Licensure 5-year Pathway: PreK-12. Orientation to teaching under the direction of cooperating teachers in the public schools.

One of the following courses:

- **EDUC 522 Arts Specialization** (4 credits)
  Prerequisite or corequisite: EDUC 521. Study of advanced content area teaching methods and current research in arts education. Field experience required.

- **EDUC 523 English Language Learner Specialization** (4 credits)
  Prerequisite or corequisite: EDUC 521. Study of advanced teaching methods and current research in teaching English Language Learners. Field experience required.

- **EDUC 524 Instructional Technology Specialization** (4 credits)
  Corequisite: EDUC 521. Study of advanced content area teaching methods and current research in instructional technology.

- **EDUC 525 Literacy Specialization** (4 credits)
  Corequisite: EDUC 521. Study of advanced content area teaching methods and current research in literacy.

- **EDUC 526 Mathematics Specialization** (4 credits)
  Corequisite: EDUC 521. Study of advanced content area teaching methods and current research in mathematics education.

- **EDUC 527 Science Specialization** (4 credits)
  Corequisite: EDUC 521. Study of advanced content area teaching methods and current research in science education.

- **EDUC 528 Social Studies Specialization** (4 credits)
  Corequisite: EDUC 521. Study of advanced content area teaching methods and current research in social studies education.

- **EDUC 529 Special Education Specialization** (4 credits)
  Corequisite: EDUC 521. Study of advanced content area teaching methods and current research in special education.