

Middle Grades English Language Arts & The Reading Teacher Endorsement

The Middle Grade English Language Arts major is designed to provide teacher candidates interested in teaching English Language Arts and/or Reading to explore language and literacies within the 5-8\PK-12 grade bands. The MELA program designs classical and contemporary theoretical foundations of pedagogical knowledge and English content knowledge to support excellent middle school grade 5-8 English Language Arts Teachers with an emphasis in reading instruction that leads to the Reading Teacher Endorsement (Prek-12). MELA, as a truly interdisciplinary major, provides an in-depth study of classical, contemporary, post-colonial, and adolescent literature combined with courses that enable students to diagnose and remediate the challenges many students experience in Prek-12 grades that impact their school success. All MELA teacher candidates are prepared to serve a wide range of students in the 5-8 classroom or within specialized school settings where they can use their expertise as prepared reading teachers to support students' needs, uniquely and to collaborate with content area teachers, across discipline areas with effective planning, instruction, and assessment to support content area knowledge development through literacies. The MELA major requires a comprehensive set of foundational coursework in education that is integrated with courses in professional studies and across other education disciplinary areas, all with a concentration in literacy.

Students must apply and be formally admitted to the Teacher Education Program to enter upper-level coursework. All courses must be completed with a grade of C- (1.7) or higher. Students must maintain cumulative GPA of 2.750 or higher to remain in the program and fulfill licensure requirements. Students also must pass the State mandated content area tests prior to student teaching: Test #201 Middle Grades (5-8) Language Arts and the Reading Teaching Endorsement Test #222.

The following Education courses are required for licensure:

- EDU 104 Cultural Foundations of Education in the United States (1.0)
- EDU/SEC 223 Education of PK-12 Learners with Exceptionalities (1.0)
- EDU/SEC 311 Educational Psychology (1.0)
- SEC 100 Introductory Field Experiences in Education (.25)
- SEC 300 Intermediate Seminar for Teaching in Diverse and Inclusive Schools (.25)
- SEC 310 Methods and Best Practices in Middle and Secondary Education (1.0)
- TEL 317 Methods and Materials for Teaching ESL (.75)
- SEC 360 The Middle School: History, Philosophy, Organizational Structures and Best Practices (1.0)
- *SEC 421 Theory and Practice for Building Academic Literacies in K-12 Classrooms (1.0)
- SEC 450 Advanced Seminar in Teacher Collaboration and Professional Practice (1.0)
- SEC 455 Student Teaching in Middle & Secondary Schools (4.0)

The following English courses are required for licensure (5-8):

- ENG 201 Composition III: Classical Rhetoric and Composition Discourse (1.0)
- ENG 220 Principles of Literary Study (1.0)
- ENG 352 American Literature II (1.0)
- ENG 372 Multicultural Post-Colonial Literature (1.0)
- EDU 430 Writing Pedagogy & Methods in the Middle Level Classroom (1.0)
- ENG 416 History and Structure of the English Language (1.0)
- ENG 441 The Teaching of English Language Arts in Middle Level Grades (1.0)

The Reading Teacher Endorsement (PreK-12)

- SPE 316 K-12 Instructional Strategies and Interventions (.75)
- *SEC 421 Building Academic Literacy in K-12 Classrooms (1.0)
- SPE 440 Diagnosing & Remediating Reading Difficulties (.75)
- ENG 315 Adolescent Literature (.50)
- EDU 445 Literacy Practicum (1.0)
- EDU 373 Using Picture Books & Informational Texts for K-8 Literacy Practicum (1.0)

**Course meets the Middle Grades ELA state requirements and the Reading Teacher Endorsement*