

MIDDLE CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ASPIRE

EXPERIENTIAL MAJOR MAP

RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR MAJOR

A degree in Middle Childhood Education provides a state-approved pathway to teacher licensure while preparing candidates to teach and mentor students during one of the most critical stages of their academic and personal development. Through extensive field experiences, clinical practice, and residency placements, students gain hands-on experience in real classrooms before graduation. Graduates develop expertise in adolescent learning, subject-area instruction, classroom management, communication, and collaboration, making them highly valuable in today's schools. The profession offers meaningful opportunities to influence young adolescents' academic success, confidence, and future aspirations while providing pathways to graduate education, instructional leadership, curriculum development, and school administration. Nationwide, schools continue to seek qualified educators, particularly those with strong content knowledge and the ability to support diverse learners, creating ongoing career opportunities for Middle Childhood Education graduates.

THE WHO...

- Working with young adolescents in grades 5-9
- Building positive relationships and mentoring students
- Teaching subject-specific content such as English, Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies
- Supporting academic, social, and emotional growth
- Creating engaging and inclusive learning environments
- Leading and inspiring the next generation of learners
- Making a meaningful impact in schools and communities
- Collaborating with families, colleagues, and community partners

THE WHY...

- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Classroom leadership and management
- Critical thinking and problem-solving
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Technology integration
- Adaptability and creativity
- Assessment and data-informed decision making
- Cultural responsiveness and inclusive teaching practices
- Professionalism and ethical leadership

THE WHAT

- Middle School Teacher (Grades 5-9)
- English Language Arts Teacher
- Mathematics Teacher
- Science Teacher
- Social Studies Teacher
- Academic Intervention Specialist
- Instructional Coach (with experience and/or graduate study)
- Curriculum Coordinator
- Educational Consultant
- School Administrator (with graduate study)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"I started college unsure of my direction, but the ASPIRE major map helped me stay focused. I followed the steps—attended networking events, secured internships, and built a portfolio through my capstone. By senior year, I wasn't scrambling—I was prepared. I received a full-time offer from my internship site before graduating."

HILLTOP ADVANTAGE

Middle Childhood Education students gain hands-on experience through field placements, residency opportunities, and faculty mentorship. Small class sizes and personalized support help candidates develop the knowledge, confidence, and teaching skills needed to succeed in middle-level classrooms.

TOP SKILLS

- Coaching & Leadership
- Health & Wellness Education
- Communication
- Team Building
- Classroom Management
- Program Planning
- Injury Prevention & Safety
- Motivation & Mentoring
- Collaboration
- Professionalism

ASPIRE - Experiential Major Map

	FIRST YEAR	MIDDLE YEARS	LAST YEAR	
A ACADEMIC MASTERY	- Explore the Middle Childhood Education program and grades 5-9 certification requirements. - Select and begin coursework in two teaching concentrations. - Build a strong academic foundation in content areas and general studies. - Develop a plan for meeting Teacher Education admission requirements. - Complete introductory education coursework and field experiences. - Complete the Mini-Residency Form to Begin Your Field Experience Mini-Residency Form	- Advance content knowledge in both certification areas. - Successfully complete EDUC 301 and meet all Admission Point 1 requirements for the Teacher Education Program. Admission Point 1 Application - Develop instructional strategies specific to middle-level learners. Learn to support the academic, social, and emotional needs of adolescents.	- Demonstrate proficiency in curriculum planning, assessment, and classroom instruction. - Pass required Praxis II examinations in certification areas. - Successfully complete Admission Point 3 (Admission to Residency 2) requirements. Admission Point 3 Application Prepare for grades 5-9 teaching certification and employment.	ACADEMIC SUCCESS CHECKLIST - Select two certification areas: Mathematics, English, General Science, and/or Social Studies. - Observe and participate in grades 5-9 classroom experiences. - Maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA. - Complete Admission Point requirements. - Develop a professional portfolio demonstrating expertise in both content areas. - Apply for graduation, licensure, and teaching positions.
S SELF-DISCOVERY & STRENGTHS	- Explore teaching interests across middle school content areas. - Observe a variety of middle school classrooms. - Reflect on strengths related to communication, leadership, and working with adolescents.	- Develop a philosophy of middle-level education. - Identify strengths in engaging and motivating young adolescents. - Seek mentorship from faculty and practicing middle school teachers.	- Refine your professional identity as a middle school educator. - Determine preferred grade levels and content specializations. - Explore graduate study and additional endorsements.	
PI PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION INTEGRATIVE & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING	- Participate in observations in grades 5-9 classrooms. - Engage in tutoring, mentoring, or youth development activities. - Begin documenting field experiences and professional growth. - Attend study abroad or experiential learning info sessions	- Complete required practicum and field experiences. - Design interdisciplinary lessons that connect content areas. - Complete a minimum of 125 field hours and successfully meet all Admission Point 2 (Admission to Residency 1) requirements. Admission Point 2 Application Integrate technology, assessment, and differentiated instruction into lesson planning	- Complete Residency 1 and Residency 2 placements in middle school settings. - Complete at least 250 hours during Residency 1 and 500 hours during Residency 2. - Develop a professional teaching portfolio. - Complete the WV Teacher Performance Assessment and Mock Interview. Apply for certification and employment.	
RE RELATIONSHIPS & LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT & WELL-BEING	- Join Education Club and campus organizations. - Attend networking and professional development events. - Build relationships with faculty, advisors, and peers.	- Take on leadership roles within clubs and organizations. - Participate in service-learning opportunities with local schools. - Collaborate with mentor teachers and school partners.	- Network with principals, counselors, and district administrators. - Participate in educator recruitment fairs and interviews. - Mentor younger teacher candidates. - Successfully complete Admission Point 4 (Completion of Program requirements) Admission Point 4 Application - Transition from student to professional educator.	

