

# School of Teacher Education and Leadership Middle Education (grades 6-8)



Becoming a middle school teacher provides an opportunity to impact and challenge students in grades 6-8. Effective teaching begins with knowledge and appreciation of early adolescent development. Collaborating within a team allows the teacher to create a learning community that connects students and parents with the school and communicates caring and high expectations. In addition to having a strong background in at least two content areas, the teacher plans and implements interdisciplinary instruction.

Students who wish to teach in the middle school must major in Interdisciplinary Studies -- the middle education option. This major has been specifically developed to provide both the breadth and depth of knowledge needed to be successful in the middle school. As part of that major you must choose to concentrate in two of the following areas: English, math, social studies, and science.

Duties of the middle school educator include being able to develop appropriate relationships with students, plan and implement relevant instruction, assess student progress, and work collaboratively with parents, teachers, administrators and students to ensure success.

Students should possess positive self concept, ability to relate well with others, flexibility, resourcefulness, sense of humor, innovative nature, and commitment to lifelong learning. Students must meet basic requirements for applying to the Teacher Education Programs that will include tests required for licensure (PRAXIS I and VCLA) which evaluates basic competencies in reading, writing, and mathematics; achieving academic excellence (minimum gpa of 2.50); pedagogical content

knowledge (as measured by PRAXIS II tests specific to concentrations; and exhibiting personal and professional characteristics contributing to success in teaching. Interdisciplinary Studies majors also must submit documentation of 50 hours of work with children in structured learning situations.

Radford's middle level teacher preparation program provides a clear, in-depth focus on teaching early adolescents. Pre-service teachers are challenged to develop professional knowledge and skills and expand content knowledge during two intensive semesters in middle schools. Faculty members work closely with students.

Students pursuing the middle school education program who complete a mathematics or science concentration can be eligible to receive funding through the TEACH Grant. Students must have a 3.25 gpa and be admitted to the RU teacher education program. Details on the TEACH Grant can be found on the RU Financial Aid website at: <http://finaid.asp.radford.edu/teach.html>.

Currently, the demand for licensed middle school teachers is greater than the supply. Candidates who are mobile have excellent job prospects.

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**RU Admissions Office:**

<http://admissions.asp.radford.edu/default.aspx>

