TEACHER EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION

School of Education

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Colleen Fairbanks, Professor and Chair of Department

Kerri Richardson, Director of Graduate Study for the Teacher Education M.Ed. Program

Dale Schunk, Director of Graduate Study for the Teacher Education Ph.D. Program

Brad Johnson, Director of Graduate Study for the Higher Education M.Ed. Program

Laura Gonzalez, Director of Graduate Study for the Higher Education Ph.D. Program

About

Undergraduate majors in this department are prepared to receive the North Carolina Standard Professional I License for teaching in public schools, grades K–6 and 6–9. The majors in this department include Elementary (K–6) and Middle Grades (6–9) Education.

Elementary and Middle Grades Education majors progress through their professional studies in Inquiry Teams of about 25 students under the guidance of a university instructor, who serves as their field supervisor, academic advisor, and weekly seminar leader. Students assigned to an inquiry team take all Elementary or Middle Grades methods courses together and do 10-hour per week internships in schools. Three internships are required prior to student teaching. New inquiry teams begin in the fall semester of the junior year and continue for four consecutive semesters.

Student Learning Goals


Admission to the Teacher Education Program and to the Elementary or Middle Grades Education Majors

Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to Teacher Education with a major in the Department of Teacher Education and Higher Education. The School of Education's Department of Teacher Education and Higher Education reserves the right to refuse admission where additional enrollments would threaten the academic quality of classes or programs. The size of each junior class coming into Elementary or Middle Grades Education is determined by the availability of instructors for student practicum and student teaching experiences. Therefore, it may not be possible to assure space for each student who meets the quantitative criteria for admission to the major as specified above. Interviews and/or other qualitative criteria will be implemented in such instances. Students must apply for admission by July 1 to be admitted for the fall semester. In addition to admission to teacher education (see School of Education), a student who seeks admission to the Elementary or Middle Grades Education major is expected to achieve:

- A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0;
- A grade of C or better in each professional course;
- Completion of all courses needed to fulfill the General Education Requirements; and
- Satisfactory scores on the Praxis I.

* Specified Course TED 250 Teaching as a Profession.

Admission to Student Teaching

The department has specific grade point average expectations and performance criteria to remain active in the program. Please contact the department office for this information.

Eligibility to enter student teaching requires maintaining a grade point average of 3.0 after being admitted to the major, and achieving a grade of C or better in each professional course. After admission to the major, a student fails to maintain a grade point average of 3.0, the student has one semester to improve his/her grade point average. If a student receives a C- or lower in a professional course, the student is eligible to retake the course at its next offering.

Second Academic Concentration Requirement

- All students majoring in Elementary Education are required to complete an approved second concentration of at least 18 credit hours in a basic academic discipline or in an approved interdisciplinary studies program, although some departments (e.g., French and Spanish) have a 24 credit requirement. Depending upon the academic discipline selected, a maximum of 6 credits in either of the concentrations may be counted toward the General Education requirements.
- All students majoring in Middle Grades Education must complete 24, 25, or 27 credits in two of four middle level content fields (concentrations): Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies.

Professor

Heidi B Carlone, Professor and Jennifer Smith Hooks and Jacob T. Hooks Distinguished Professor

Jewell E Cooper

Colleen M Fairbanks

Melinda G Ivey, Professor and William E. Moran Distinguished Professor

Victoria R Jacobs, James D. and Hohanna F. Yopp Excellence Professor

Sam D Miller

Dale H Schunk

Associate Professor

Beverly S Faircloth

Laura McLaughlin Gonzalez

Ye He

Wayne Journell

Melody J Patterson Zoch

Kerri D Richardson

Edna Tan

Satisfactory scores on the Praxis I.
Elementary and Middle Grades Education Disciplinary Honors

The Disciplinary Honors Program allows students in all majors to do Honors work in their majors or in upper-division interdisciplinary studies. Through Disciplinary Honors, students have the opportunity to study topics in depth and to do advanced research under the supervision of a faculty member, thus giving themselves a competitive advantage when applying for graduate school or beginning a career. In order to participate in and take Disciplinary Honors courses, students must have a 3.50 grade point average at the time of registration and meet all other course prerequisites.

Recognition

Students who complete the requirements for the Disciplinary Honors Program receive a Certificate of Disciplinary Honors in Elementary and Middle Grades Education; have that accomplishment, along with the title of their Senior Honors Project, noted on their official transcript; and are recognized at a banquet held at the end of the academic year.

Requirements

The student requirements for the Disciplinary Honors Program in Elementary and Middle Grades Education include those provided below.

1. Minimum GPA
   Maintain a UNCG GPA of 3.50 or higher through graduation

2. Good standing
   Maintaining a “good standing” status in the Elementary and Middle Grades Education program, which means he/she is not on a Professional Improvement Plan and is managing the extensive workload and internship,

3. Honors assignments
   Self-initiating, managing, and taking responsibility for the honor assignments with input from the faculty.

4. Honors course work
   Completing at least 12 credit hours of Honors course work with grades of A or B as listed below.
   a. Course work in the major
      6-9 credits of Honors course work in the major
   b. Honors project course
      Code | Title                          | Credit Hours
      --- | ------------------------------ | ---
      HSS 490 | Senior Honors Project          |
   c. Additional course work
      0-3 credits of other Honors course work

Honors Advisor

See Dr. Jennifer Mangrum, Faculty Honors Liaison, for further information and guidance about Honors in Elementary and Middle Grades Education.