

**Western Carolina University: Middle Grades Education**  
**Checklist for Middle Grades Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program and Standard Professional I teaching license**  
 For additional information, visit: <http://www.wcu.edu/5414.asp>

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Licensure Area: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Phase I</b>	<i>semester offerings: F = Fall Semester, SP = Spring, SU = Summer</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A minimum GPA of 2.85 in the last conferred degree or a GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 hours of coursework from regionally accredited institutions is required to be admitted to the Certificate Program and begin Phase I.</li> <li>Pre-Requisite Content courses may be completed at WCU, a Community College, or at another Institution with pre-approval from advisor. Approval of a course at another institution, online or otherwise, will be granted upon submission of a link to a syllabus for desired course. Keep a record of email responses from advisor as documentation of approval. Upon completion of courses for pre-requisite requirements, official transcripts should be sent to the Office of Alternative Licensure, 223 Killian, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723. A student may not proceed to phase II until all official transcripts are received. If pre-requisite courses are completed as a WCU graduate student, graduate tuition rates apply.</li> <li>For licensure, a grade of C or better is required (C- cannot be accepted).</li> <li>Once accepted to WCU, a TaskStream Account is required (<a href="http://www.taskstream.com">http://www.taskstream.com</a>).</li> <li>Background checks will be required for field experience, more information provided in EDRD 543.</li> </ul>		
<b>Required Pre-Requisite Content Courses (see next page), may be taken concurrently with the following</b>	Record on next page	
(3) EDMG 510 Middle School Child and Curriculum (**first course**, 1 campus meeting required) F		
(3) EDRD 543 Middle Grades Reading (*10 hr. field experience required) SU		
(3) PSY 621 Advanced Ed Psychology F, SP, SU		
(3) SPED 639 Teaching Exceptional Learners in Inclusive Classrooms F, SP, SU		
<b>Phase II</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have established WCU GPA of 3.0 or better and have completed all requirements of Phase I.</li> <li>Phase II courses must be taken together during the Spring semester.</li> <li>There is a minimum requirement of 5 days within the classroom (40 – 60 hrs field experience).</li> <li>Two (2) campus meetings, most likely on a Saturday, will be required. Date, time and location of the meetings will be determined by the instructor, via the syllabus.</li> <li>Application for Fall Internship is due in February during EDMG 520.</li> </ul>		
(3) EDMG 520 Responsive Assessment and Instruction (2 campus meetings required) <b>SPRING Only</b>		
(3) 1 Methods course per licensure area (**field experience required) <b>SPRING Only.</b> <b>**We will not substitute EDPY courses.</b>		
EDMG 519 Math Methods                      EDMG 515 LA Methods		
EDMG 516 Science Methods                      EDMG 517 Social Studies Methods		
<b>Phase III</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The WCU Office of Field Experience will assist with placement in the following school systems: <a href="#">Asheville City</a>, <a href="#">Buncombe</a>, <a href="#">Burke</a>, <a href="#">Catawba</a>, <a href="#">Cherokee Central</a>, <a href="#">Cherokee County</a>, <a href="#">Clay</a>, <a href="#">Cleveland</a>, <a href="#">Gaston</a>, <a href="#">Graham</a>, <a href="#">Haywood</a>, <a href="#">Henderson</a>, <a href="#">Jackson</a>, <a href="#">Lincoln</a>, <a href="#">Macon</a>, <a href="#">Madison</a>, <a href="#">McDowell</a>, <a href="#">Mitchell</a>, <a href="#">Polk</a>, <a href="#">Rutherford</a>, <a href="#">Swain</a>, <a href="#">Transylvania</a>, <a href="#">Yancey</a>.</li> <li>The internship is not a paid internship.</li> </ul>		
(3) EDMG 587 Internship Seminar F, SP		
(6) EDMG 589 Internship II (full semester student teaching) F, SP (see FAQs)		
Other Requirements: Completion of Teacher Work Sample including all Electronic Evidences.		
Apply for NC License, Standard Professional I CEAP Licensure Specialist: Ms. Barbara Schade (828-227-2000; <a href="mailto:bschade@email.wcu.edu">bschade@email.wcu.edu</a> ); <a href="http://www.wcu.edu/11215.asp">http://www.wcu.edu/11215.asp</a>		

**Pre-Requisite \_\_\_\_\_ hours and Phase I, II, & III 27 hours = \_\_\_\_\_ Total Required Hours**

Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Associate Dean \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Middle Grades Licensure Advisors:**     [Lydia Wade](#), [lwade@wcu.edu](mailto:lwade@wcu.edu) or 828.227.3755  
    [Kurt Frederick](#), [kafrederick@wcu.edu](mailto:kafrederick@wcu.edu) or 828.227.3836  
    **TRACS (Teacher Recruitment Advising and Career Support) 828.227.7027**

**Pre-Requisite Requirements in Content Areas:** Applicants for the NC Standard Professional I License in middle grades subject areas (Mathematics, Science, Social Studies or Language Arts) may need to take additional pre-requisite undergraduate coursework in order to have a total of 24 hours in content preparation for the licensure area, a requirement of the National *No Child Left Behind* Act for highly qualified teachers. A transcript review will determine any pre-requisite courses needed.

Mathematics	Req/Waived	Term	Credits	Grade	Science	Req/Waived	Term	Credits	Grade
MATH 321 Theory of Arithmetic I (3)					AST 103 The Solar System (3)				
MATH 322 Theory of Arithmetic II(3)					BIOL 103 Environmental Biology (3)				
MATH 311 Informal Geometry(3)					BIOL 140 Principles of Biology I +lab (4)				
MATH 170 Applied Statistics (3)					CHEM 132 Introductory Chemistry + lab (4)				
MATH 146 Pre-Calculus (4)					GEOL 150 Methods of Geology + lab (4)				
MATH 140 Introductory Calculus (5) or MATH 153 (4) + 1 Elective Course					PHYS 130 Introductory Physics (3) + lab (1)				
Social Studies	Req/Waived	Term	Credits	Grade	Language Arts	Req/Waived	Term	Credits	Grade
HIST 222 European History since 1517 (3)					EDRD 467/567 Adolescent Literature (3)				
<u>Two</u> from : South America and Europe <i>Select from:</i> GEOG 350; HIST 327; PSC 215, 219, 415, 416					ENGL 312 Grammar for Teachers (3)				
<u>Two</u> from: Africa, Asia, and Australia <i>Select from:</i> HIST 373, 375,411; ANTH 477; GEOG 440 (Asian or African topic); GEOG 444; PSC 216, 317, 343					ENGL 319 Teaching of Grammar (3)				
HIST 341 NC History (3)					ENGL 414 (3) Teaching Composition <i>or</i> ENGL 416 ESL (3)				
World History <i>Select from:</i> HIST 107, 182, 311, 312, 313, 317; PSC 320, 321; ANTH 361, 363, 431					<u>6 hours</u> in Literature <i>Level 200 or above</i>				
					ENGL 202 (3) English Composition				

**To be completed after university acceptance**

Student ID:                      Highest Previous Degree:                      Admit Term:                      Enrolled Program:

## *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*

### *Middle Grades Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program and Standard Professional I teaching license*

#### **1. Do I have to take the PRAXIS?**

The PRAXIS I test is not required for Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program because alternative licensure students already have a four-year degree. The PRAXIS II test is not required by WCU to apply for your licensure if you complete all licensure requirements before being hired. However, if you are hired as a lateral entry teacher, the school system will most likely require passing PRAXIS II scores, and these scores will be required by DPI in order to clear your temporary lateral entry license. More information about the PRAXIS tests is available at [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org).

#### **2. Am I eligible for financial aid in this program?**

Yes, students admitted in the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program are eligible for financial aid if enrolled in at least six credit hours each semester. The WCU Financial Aid office will assist students with the appropriate forms and paperwork: <http://www.wcu.edu/11344.asp>.

#### **3. What is lateral entry? Do I qualify?**

Lateral entry allows qualified individuals to obtain a teaching position and begin teaching right away, while obtaining a professional educator's license as they teach. *Only the hiring school system can initiate the process for lateral entry status. WCU program requirements are no different for lateral entry teachers than those participants who are currently not teaching. Detailed information about lateral entry qualifications can be found on the DPI website:*

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/licensure/lateral/>

#### **4. Do transcripts need to be official?**

Two copies of official transcripts are required. One official transcript of conferred baccalaureate degree is required for admission to the WCU Graduate School, and one official transcript is required from every institution attended for development of a degree audit and for licensure paperwork sent to DPI. As transcripts are updated and pre-requisite coursework completed, please be sure to send all official transcripts to 223 Killian, Cullowhee, NC 28723.

#### **5. Do I have to maintain a GPA throughout the program?**

Although you may be admitted to the program with a GPA of 2.85 or better, you are required to establish a WCU GPA of 3.0 before you can continue into Phase II. **You are expected to maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better throughout Phase II and III.** According to the WCU Graduate School catalog, "a graduate student who accumulates three grades of C or any grade of F will be dismissed from the Graduate School. A student who has been admitted provisionally and fails to meet the terms of the provisional admission will also be dismissed from the Graduate School. Students will be informed in writing by the Graduate School at the time of dismissal."

#### **6. What are Electronic Evidences?**

WCU's teacher education programs use electronic evidences to demonstrate a record of the ways the student plans instruction, teaches lessons, and learns from the teaching experience. The Teacher Work Sample (TWS) the collection of the electronic evidences which address content knowledge, pedagogical and professional knowledge, skills, and dispositions, positive impact on student learning, and leadership and collaboration. The evidences are *performance-related*, and will be submitted for review to the North Carolina State Board of Education for each program completer. Download the requirements within the Internship/Student Teaching Handbook at: <http://www.wcu.edu/9874.asp>.

#### **7. Can I complete internship in only the counties listed under the Phase III section?**

At this time, resources are limited. The middle grades program is not able to successfully supervise and support student teaching and observations outside of western North Carolina. If you live outside the defined region, you are expected to attend face-to-face sessions on campus during all Phases; the student teaching experience must be completed in one of the identified school districts.

#### **8. How am I placed for the required field experiences and internship?**

The middle grades program will assist with placement for required field experience in EDRD 543 and the Methods courses. WCU's Office of Field Experience will work with students for field placements as required for internship. The application for internship is completed during EDMG520 and Methods in the Spring semester and is due in February to your advisor in order to give the Office of Field Experience opportunity to "place" you in an approved school system. Resources for placement can be found at <http://www.wcu.edu/9856.asp> and more information will be provided in course syllabi.

#### **9. If I'm a lateral entry teacher, am I required to submit an early field experience application, an internship application, and a background check?**

Lateral entry teachers are not required to complete internship/seminar unless they want to complete the Certificate program. If a lateral entry teacher wants to complete the Certificate program, the internship can be completed in his/her own classroom within one of the specified counties. Since all students in internship are required to submit a background check, the hiring school system can submit the background check for lateral entry teachers and other employees of the school system.

#### **10. How do I apply my licensure coursework to a master's degree?**

After earning your Post-Baccalaureate Certificate and Standard Professional I teaching license, if accepted to the Master of Arts in Education degree in middle grades, you may have the opportunity to apply up to twelve (12) graduate credit hours to the 36 hour degree program and earn a Standard Professional II license. Students with a cumulative GPA in post-bac Certificate of 3.5 or better may be exempt from the GRE requirement for the MAED degree program. The MAED in middle grades is a blended program, online and hybrid with a considerable amount of choice. Please contact Terry Rose at 828.227.3348 or [rose@wcu.edu](mailto:rose@wcu.edu) for more information.

#### **11. How long do I have to complete the program?**

WCU's stop out policy allows a student to remain active but unenrolled for up to three semesters including summer. If a student stops out and is required to reapply, he/she is readmitted under the current program requirements at that time. Updated program information is available in the WCU Graduate Catalog for the year a student is readmitted. A student has six years to complete the post-baccalaureate certificate program.