

MEd – Curriculum & Instruction

Area of Emphasis: Professional Studies

The Professional Studies area of emphasis offers individualized advising and flexible online coursework designed to help provisionally licensed VA preK-12 public schools meet the Professional Studies course requirements for the alternate route to licensure available in the Commonwealth of Virginia and earn a Master's degree in Curriculum & Instruction.

Plans of study will be tailored based on VDOE requirements for teachers with a provisional licensure. For a sample course sequence, please contact Courtney Sullivan. In the right column are course descriptions of typical classes included within the Professional Studies area of emphasis course sequence.

All Curriculum & Instruction MEd students are required to take five classes in the Curriculum & Instruction (C&I) core (15 hours) and five classes in an area of emphasis. The C&I core classes consists of four pillars—instruction, curriculum, assessment, and diversity. Students must successfully pass a comprehensive exam which is embedded in a culminating C&I course (EDIS 6880).

Course Descriptions

EDLF 5160: Lifespan Development

This course will focus on biological, psychological and social development from birth through older adulthood. Topics will be presented via discussion of underlying theory, research, and application, with attention to how gender, race, SES, and cohort impact development. Concepts of consistency and change will be stressed. Throughout, students will be encouraged to examine and even question their own beliefs about what it means to "grow up".

EDIS 5041: Behavior & Classroom Management

Examination of principles and applications of behavior analysis in education settings. Students learn fundamental concepts of human behavior as well as procedures for managing classroom behavior and routines for establishing positive learning environments.

EDIS 7720: Understanding the Code: Phonics, Phonological Awareness and Orthography

Understanding the Code provides students with a deep understanding of the code and why building this knowledge across a child's reading development is crucial. Students will learn how phoneme awareness and phonics lead to automatic word recognition, why we spell the way we do, and how the meaning layer of language supports decoding, spelling, and vocabulary.

EDIS 7700: Reading Foundations for Diverse Learners

Reading comprehension requires the development of many subcomponent skills. This course will cover the fundamentals of reading development from emergent literacy through adolescent readers. Particular attention will be drawn toward understanding reading development theory, historical context of reading development and policy, as well as how federal policy impacts reading assessment and instruction.

EDIS 5175: Issues in K-12 Education

The purpose of this course is to identify, explore, and discuss some of education's defining issues. The first part of the course examines the foundation and history of American education in order to provide context for current issues in education. In the second part of the course, we will collaboratively explore a variety of current educational issues that directly impact K-12 classroom teachers.

EDIS 5820: Assessment of and for Learning

This course is designed for teachers seeking initial certification. This course provides pre-service teachers with foundational knowledge of classroom assessment and data literacy, including types of assessment, assessment design and quality, and interpretation of use of assessment data.

EDIS 7710: Reading in the Content Area

Familiarizes teachers with literacy instruction linked to content subjects, with an emphasis on how teachers in the upper elem., middle, & secondary grades can facilitate comprehension of nonfiction sources. Topics include practical assessments, evidence-based instruction in technical vocabulary & comprehension, affective and multicultural issues, writing in content areas, & technology.