



## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

### We're more than you think.

We are proud of our reputation as the flagship teacher education program in South Carolina and the region. Our program leads students to successful teaching careers because we ensure that what we teach is relevant to the workplace and that we challenge and inspire those who come to us. With \$7 million federal funding through the Teacher Quality Partnership program, we are creating a new model of undergraduate teacher preparation. As you will see, our commitment to leadership, stewardship, collaboration and innovation exemplifies all that we do.

For more information, contact:  
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**WINTHROP**  
UNIVERSITY  
ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA

# Middle Level Education

*Helping young adolescents discover their dreams*

## The Major

Winthrop offers the Bachelor of Science in middle level education for students who wish to be certified to teach middle grades (5-8) in South Carolina. Students will choose a combination of two concentration areas from among English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The middle level education program trains pre-service teachers to work in teams with young adolescents during this crucial developmental stage and to use small group instruction and other strategies to best meet young adolescents' educational needs.

## The Program

The Bachelor of Science in middle level education offers teacher candidates 60 semester hours of content area studies (in a combination of two areas from among English/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies). This content, along with the university's general education requirements and the 30 hours of pedagogy core courses, constitutes the 124- to 134-credit degree. A set of four middle level courses (12 semester hours) establishes the foundation in middle school philosophy and organization, and provides candidates with instructional, assessment and literacy strategies for successful work with young adolescents.

## Internships

At Winthrop, middle level teacher candidates are placed in educational settings beginning in the freshman year. During the first semester of the senior year, candidates are placed in observation and teaching roles in

middle school classrooms. The second semester of senior year consists of no less than 60 full days of student teaching under the guidance of an experienced middle level teacher in the Rock Hill area.

## Student Organizations

Middle level education majors are welcome to become members of the student chapter of the South Carolina Education Association and/or the Palmetto State Teachers Association. Membership in Kappa Delta Pi, a national honorary organization for education majors, is also available for those who achieve high academic honors. The program is establishing its own chapter of the Collegiate Middle Level Association.

## Certification

Once the program is completed and the appropriate test scores are attained on the content area PRAXIS exams, graduates are eligible for certification in the two content areas at the middle level (grades 5-8) for the state of South Carolina.

## Careers

Graduates will enjoy great success as teachers and professionals in the field of middle level education. These grade levels routinely experience teacher shortages, resulting in numerous career opportunities for prospective teachers. Recent mandates from the state of South Carolina have made it imperative that all those teaching in middle schools be middle level certified, which has increased the demand for appropriately prepared teachers.

## Faculty

The education faculty at Winthrop are highly devoted to teaching. All of the full-time teaching faculty hold a Ph.D. or Ed.D., indicating a high level of knowledge of their specialty areas. Primary faculty members in the middle level education program are Kelly M. Costner, who holds a Ph.D. in mathematics education from The Ohio State University, and Abbigail Armstrong, who holds an Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction from Gardner-Webb University with a public school background in middle level education.

## Graduate School

State requirements mandate teacher certification renewal, so continuing education is essential and necessary for all teachers. Many teachers combine this certificate renewal with work toward a master's degree in education. Winthrop offers a Master of Education (M.Ed.) in middle level education degree that is open to all certified teachers.

## How Does the Program Work?

Students in the Bachelor of Science program in middle level education integrate the courses for their two content area concentrations (chosen from among English/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies) with the courses that constitute the general education program at Winthrop. By the junior year, they begin the four core courses that contain specific middle grades philosophy, instruction, assessment and literacy strategies. The senior year is focused on the field experience and internship, both of which are in middle level classroom settings.



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