

MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION, B.S.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION (<https://ed.psu.edu/academics/departments/department-curriculum-and-instruction/undergraduate-studies-ci/middle-level-education-4-8>)

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Program Description

The Middle Level Education major prepares graduates to teach all subjects in grades 4-6 and English, Mathematics, or Social Studies in grades 7-8. The Middle Level Education major supports candidates' understanding of subject-specific content as well as methods of teaching appropriate for early adolescents in grades 4-8. Upon graduation, students will have met all coursework and field experience requirements for the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) 4-8 English, 4-8 Mathematics, or 4-8 Social Studies Instructional I Certificate. In addition, they will have been prepared for the appropriate teacher certification exams as required by PDE for initial certification.

This program undergoes accreditation by the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) with a Specialized Professional Association (SPA) review conducted by the American Middle Level Association (AMLE).

What is Middle Level Education?

The Middle Level Education major is a Teacher Education program for all subjects in Grades 4-6 and English, Mathematics, or Social Studies in Grades 7-8. Our program is committed to responsive teaching that is challenging, empowering, equitable, and engaging, and designed especially for the promise and possibilities of young adolescent learners.

Students complete three field experiences in middle grades classrooms.

First, they join a classroom once a week for a semester as part of entering the major. Later, they have a semester-long field experience for part of each week, alongside their university courses. The major culminates in a full-time, semester-long student teaching experience. This major supports candidates' understanding of subject-specific content as well as methods of teaching appropriate for inclusive settings in grades 4-8. Upon graduation, teacher candidates will have met all coursework and field experience requirements for the Pennsylvania Department of Education Instructional I Certificate (All subjects 4-6) and Mathematics 7-8, Social Studies 7-8, or English Language Arts & Reading 7-8). In addition, the Praxis assessment is required for certification.

You Might Like This Program If...

You recognize and value the unique and tremendous opportunities for learner growth in the middle grades (4-8). Maybe you loved your experience in the middle grades—or maybe you despised it—and you want to bring your energy and experience to facilitating major, life-altering growth. If you share in or want to learn about middle level educators' commitments to collaboration, integration, democracy, and inclusivity, in meaningful academic learning environments, join us!