

Standard and Indicators

Standard 7: Middle School Content.

The program ensures that teacher candidates have the content preparation necessary to successfully teach to increasingly rigorous state student learning standards.

Standard applies to: **Secondary** programs.

Indicators that the program meets the standard:

Institutions of higher education have traditionally articulated their vision of teacher preparedness in a subject area by defining a prescribed course of study completed via a major or minor. For middle school teachers charged with teaching many different subjects, a credit count system is particularly challenging, especially for teacher candidates entering graduate programs of study.

- 7.1** Using an outcomes-based approach, in every subject a teacher will be qualified to teach, each pathway to middle school certification listed below requires either:
- Rigorous stand-alone tests.
- OR
- A rigorous test of multiple subject areas that provides cut-score for each specific subject on the test, or a series of rigorous stand-alone tests.

Absent such licensing tests used to verify competency, we look for programs to require or certify courses of study as follows:

At the undergraduate level:

- 7.2** A middle school teacher candidate seeking certification in mathematics must have a major consisting of at least 30 semester credit hours, including at least 24 credit hours of general audience¹ mathematics coursework.
- 7.3** A middle school teacher candidate seeking certification in English/language arts must have a major consisting of at least 30 semester credit hours, including at least 24 credit hours of general audience English coursework.
- 7.4** A middle school teacher candidate seeking certification in the sciences must have either:
- A major in a single teachable science discipline (biology, chemistry, physics or earth science) of at least 30 semester credit hours, including at least 24 credit hours, of general audience coursework.
- OR
- A major in general science that consists of at least 15 credit hours (the equivalent of one minor) in one teachable science discipline (biology, chemistry, physics or earth science).

¹ Courses which are intended for any student on campus, not just prospective teachers.



- 7.5** A middle school teacher candidate seeking certification in the social sciences must have either:
- A major in a single teachable social science discipline (history, government/political science or economics) of at least 30 semester credit hours, including at least 24 credit hours of general audience coursework.
- OR
- A major in general social science that consists of at least 15 credit hours (the equivalent of one minor) in history.
- 7.6** If certification in multiple subjects is offered, a middle school teacher candidate seeking certification in multiple subjects must have at least 15 semester credit hours (the equivalent of a minor) in a single discipline relevant to each of the subject areas. (For example, dual certification in mathematics and science must consist of the equivalent of a minor in mathematics and a minor in biology, not the equivalent of a minor in mathematics and a minor in general science.)

At the graduate level:

- 7.7** The burden posed by a stringent credit count does not relieve the program of its responsibility to ensure that middle school teacher candidates in each pathway to certification (mathematics, English, the sciences, the social sciences, multiple subjects) meet requirements for content knowledge preparation. If candidates have significant weaknesses in content knowledge, the program works with the candidate to remedy them.
- When applications to the program, catalogs or other public documents do not describe such a process, the presumption will be made that no content preparation requirements are imposed on graduate teacher candidates.



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