TEACHING, MASTER OF (M.T.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION

Program goal
The Master of Teaching curricula are designed to incorporate eligibility for initial teaching licensure in Virginia in early and elementary, or secondary education (biology, chemistry, earth science, English, history, history and social studies, mathematics or physics).

The approved curricula include undergraduate qualifying courses as well. Individuals pursuing the extended program are awarded undergraduate and graduate degrees simultaneously; baccalaureate degree recipients who meet the admission criteria also may pursue the Master of Teaching degree program, including the qualifying courses. The combined baccalaureate and Master of Teaching program requires a minimum of 153-154 hours, at least 33 of which must be at the graduate level.

Secondary education
The Master of Teaching program includes curricula that lead to endorsement in one of the following disciplines: biology, chemistry, drama, earth science, English, history/social studies, mathematics or physics.

In order to enroll in the program, students must apply and be accepted to both the Extended Teacher Preparation Program and the Graduate School. Admission information for the Extended Teacher Preparation Program (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/school-education/extended-teacher-preparation-program) is available in this bulletin.

Student teaching requirements
All students pursuing a secondary education endorsement within the Master of Teaching program will student teach in the spring semester. To do so, students must take and pass the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment and their subject-specific Praxis II exams before the fall semester of the academic year in which they will student teach.

Student learning outcomes
History/social studies education
1. Demonstrate content knowledge in social studies: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in social studies as evidenced by the Praxis II scores and unit plan assessment in TEDU 547.
2. Effectively plan classroom-based instruction: Candidates demonstrate that they can effectively plan classroom-based instruction as evidenced by the lesson plan assessments in TEDU 547 and TEDU 681.
3. Effectively apply knowledge, skills and dispositions during student teaching: Candidates demonstrate that knowledge, skills and dispositions are applied effectively in practice as evidenced by clinical evaluations.
4. Demonstrate effects on student learning: Candidates demonstrate effects on student learning as evidenced by the portfolio: student work, reflections, case study and rubric for student teaching.
5. Candidates demonstrate National Council for the Social Studies standards proficiency: Candidates demonstrate proficiency on NCSS competencies as evidenced by the unit plan assessment in TEDU 547. This objective addresses NCATE Standard 1 – “Candidate Knowledge, Skills and Dispositions.”

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs
The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regis)

Degree candidacy requirements
A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master’s or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student’s graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student’s faculty regarding the student’s academic achievements and the student’s readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regis/grad/candidacy)

Graduation requirements
As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regis/grad/graduation-info)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.granduate.admissions.vcu.edu).
Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
M.T. Fall Feb 1 GRE or MAT
Spring Oct 1
Summer Feb 1

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree with a major, or equivalent, in the subject the student wishes to teach (for secondary) or an appropriate liberal arts major (for early/elementary) (Students in the five-year extended program must be pursuing an appropriate bachelor’s degree.)
2. Three letters of recommendation addressing the student’s potential for graduate study in education
3. Student’s written statement concerning career interests
4. Transcripts of all previous college work
5. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

Additionally, there are several tests that students must pass for admission to teacher preparation, admission to student teaching and licensure in Virginia. Students should consult the Student Services Center (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/student-services-center) section on the School of Education website for current testing requirements.

Admission to clinical experiences in schools requires a background check and fingerprinting.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33-34 credit hours depending on concentration.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Student teaching requirements: Students must successfully complete approved student teaching experience. Note: Students must complete all undergraduate courses before student teaching.
4. Additional testing requirement: Students must pass Praxis II, where applicable, for licensure.

Curriculum requirements

Undergraduate courses

Qualifying courses

EDUS 301 Human Development and Learning 3

Major courses (as undergraduate history majors) in political science (12 credit hours), including six credit hours 100-level U.S. and international politics and six credit hours 300-level local and international politics; geography (nine credit hours), including three credit hours of physical geography and six credit hours of cultural geography; and economics (six credit hours), including macro- and microeconomics or (as undergraduate political science majors) in history (18 credit hours); geography (nine credit hours), including three credit hours of physical geography and six credit hours of cultural geography; and economics (six credit hours), including macro- and microeconomics

Admission to teacher preparation is a prerequisite for the following courses:

TEDU 311 Middle School Practicum (secondary; must be taken concurrently with TEDU 537) 2
TEDU 312 High School Practicum (history/social studies; must be taken concurrently with TEDU 547) 1

Graduate courses

Required courses

EDUS 617/PSYC 657 Advanced Educational Psychology for Secondary Teachers 3
EDUS 673 Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy 3
TEDU 537 Secondary School Curriculum 3
TEDU 547 Teaching Secondary School Social Studies (fall only) 3
TEDU 562 Reading Instruction in the Content Areas 3
TEDU 588 Classroom Management 3

Elective

Select one of the following: 3

EDUS 610 Social Foundations of Education
SED P 505 Theory and Practice of Educating Individuals with Special Needs
SED P 531 Educational Foundations for Collaboration and Universally Designed Learning
SED P 631 Behavior Support of Individuals with Disabilities
TEDU 531 Media Literacy in the K-12 Classroom
TEDU 556 Advanced Computer Applications in Education
TEDU 627 Exploring Historical Consciousness
TEDU 651 Special Topics in Education (selected sections)

Clinical experience (spring only)

TEDU 672 Internship 4
TEDU 674 Internship II 5
TEDU 681 Investigations and Trends in Teaching (must be taken concurrently with TEDU 672 and TEDU 674) 3

Total Hours 33
**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum)** 33

**Other curricular options**

Students who already possess a content major in a discipline appropriate for secondary education may pursue a post-baccalaureate certificate.

**Graduate program coordinator**

Gabriel Reich, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: greich@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

**Additional contact**

Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

**Program website:** soe.vcu.edu (http://www.soe.vcu.edu)