The educator preparation programs offered by the Department of Teacher Education are designed to prepare qualified candidates for careers in the teaching profession. Programs are available leading to Tennessee licensure in ten secondary subject areas (Grade 6-12), Elementary Education (Grade K-5), Middle Grades Education (Grade 6-8), K-12 Music (Vocal or Instrumental, Physical Education), and English as a Second Language.

Modified academic majors in Biology, Chemistry, English, French, History, History/Government, History/Geography, Mathematics, Physics, and Spanish will lead to secondary licensure (Grade 6-12) when accompanied by the secondary education minor and successful completion of licensure examinations.

Students seeking elementary licensure (Grade K-5) complete an interdisciplinary studies program, the elementary education minor, and required licensure examinations.

Students seeking middle grades licensure (Grade 6-8) complete an interdisciplinary studies program, the middle grades education minor, and required licensure examinations. Students will complete the interdisciplinary studies program with a concentration in science or mathematics, and an additional 24 s.h. in English or History/Government; the middle grades education minor; and requirement licensure examinations.

Students seeking Music Education Vocal/General, Music Education Instrumental, or Physical Education licensure (Grades K-12) complete a major matched to state standards, the K-12 education minor, and required licensure examinations.

An English as a Second Language endorsement may be added to any other teaching license. A Health Education endorsement may be added to a Physical Education teaching license.

The MEd in Curriculum and Instruction is a graduate program for those who already possess a bachelor’s degree. The MEd offers Initial Licensure in all approved subject areas.

Subsequent licensure in Virginia or other states may require additional testing. Both traditional and post-baccalaureate licensure options are available.

Teacher licensure does not automatically confer highly qualified status under the No Child Left Behind legislation; therefore, additional coursework may be required. The MEd in Teacher Leaders is an online degree for those advanced candidates who are already licensed and employed in a school setting.

Consult with the Program Coordinator of Teacher Education for details on teacher licensure.