Master of Education (M.Ed.)
Science Education Program
Department of Mathematics and Science Education, University of Georgia
Requirements/Advising Worksheet

36 Semester Hours of graduate credit (courses numbered 6000+) are required in total.

M.Ed. students should already hold Clear Renewable T-4 teacher certification, either in a Secondary Science field (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth/Space Sciences, “Broad Field” Secondary Science) or in Middle Grades Education or Early Childhood Education with a primary current teaching assignment in science. M.Ed. in Science Education students with these backgrounds qualify for an upgrade to T-5 certification. Students wishing to earn initial certification as part of a master’s program should enroll in the M.A.T. program instead.

1. Science Content (typically 3 courses; 9 hours total)

2. Curriculum and Instruction in Science Education (4 courses; 12 hours total)

3. Educational Psychology (1 course; 3 hours)

4. Educational Research (1 course; 3 hours)

5. Electives (3 courses; 9 hours)

Elective courses should be selected by the student in consultation with the advisor, and may be in any field judged relevant to the student’s career in science education.

6. Professional Portfolio

Each student will develop a portfolio of artifacts and reflections that serves as a formal Comprehensive Examination for the degree, demonstrating their advanced-level mastery of the Science Teacher Preparation Standards of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). The portfolio is normally submitted during the semester in which the student plans to graduate, and is due three weeks before the Graduate School’s deadline for reporting the results of Comprehensive Examinations. These due dates are typically the first Friday in April, July, or November, for the Spring, Summer, and Fall Semesters respectively.
In accordance with UGA Graduate School rules:
• Transfer credit from another institution is limited to 6 hours, with grades of B or higher.
• A maximum of 9 hours of coursework initially taken on a non-degree basis at UGA may be applied to degree requirements.
• A student must be registered for at least 3 hours during the semester in which requirements for the degree (e.g., portfolio) are completed. These last 3 hours must be through UGA rather than transferred.
• All students must comply with the Graduate School’s Continuous Enrollment Policy

1Full-time students are encouraged to enroll in substantively advanced coursework in their primary field of scientific expertise. Few such courses are currently available online at UGA, however, and therefore are often difficult or impossible to schedule for students holding a full-time teaching job. Therefore online M.Ed. students most often enroll in courses having few or no prerequisites yet carrying graduate credit, in science fields in which their background is relatively weak. Online options in this category have recently included:
   - BIOS 7010E Introduction to Biostatistics I (Summer)
   - HORT/CRSS 6430E Plant Physiology (Fall, Spring)
   - ENTO 7730E Entomology for Teachers (Spring)
   - EPID 7010E Introduction to Epidemiology (Fall, Spring)
   - GEOG 6730E Introduction to Geographic Information Science (Summer)
   - MARS 7020E Marine Science for Teachers (Summer)
Advisors are encouraged to use reasonable judgment in considering transfer credit for courses offered online by other universities or scientific institutions (e.g., in recent years, NASA, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, American Museum of Natural History). In some cases such substantively appropriate courses/workshops do not carry formal graduate credit from any university, and advisors may choose to offer credit under ESCI 6000 for the student to prepare a final report, project, portfolio, or presentation based on the scientific experience in question.

2Other master’s-level courses focusing on secondary science education include:
   - ESCI 6200E Science, Technology, and Society [Summer; repeatable for 6 hours total credit]
     o Special focus, even-numbered Summers: Socio-scientific Issues
     o Special focus, odd-numbered Summers: STEM Integration
   - ESCI 6000 Special Problems in Science Education [directed study with a member of the faculty]
   - ESCI 6480 Technological Capabilities for Science Teaching [Fall Semester, evening, face-to-face]
   - ESCI 6230 Environmental Science Education [Spring; online implementation pending]
ESCI 6480 is intended primarily for students earning initial certification, but may be counted toward this requirement by M.Ed. students without strong background or experience with educational technology. 8000- and 9000-level ESCI courses (intended primarily for specialist and/or doctoral students) may also be included, with the permission of the instructor, by M.Ed. students who are able to come to the Athens campus one evening per week.

3Most commonly elected courses are others in Educational Psychology (including those listed above, plus those leading to the Gifted Education in-field endorsement: EPSY 7110E, 7060E, 7230E, and 7250E) or online courses in Middle Grades Education (EDMG), Mathematics Education (EMAT), Language and Literacy Education (LLED), or Social Foundations of Education (EFND).

4All UGA graduate degree students must register for at least 3 hours of coursework during at least two of the three semesters of each year (operationally defined as beginning in Fall and ending in Summer) until graduation. To cite the two most common practical implications of this rule, it is not permissible to be a “summers only” student (even at the beginning and/or end of a program), and in order to “take the summer off” it is required to have been registered during both of the preceding two academic year semesters. Very rare exemptions from this rule may be granted on a case-by-case basis, by formally petitioning the Graduate School, in cases in which UGA schedule constraints that are completely out of the control of the student may make compliance with this policy impossible in particular circumstances, or in cases of extreme personal life difficulties.