

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
Secondary Education Program
EDCI 673: ADVANCED METHODS OF TEACHING SCIENCE IN THE SECONDARY
SCHOOL
Spring Semester, 2015 – 3 credits Section 001

College of
EDUCATION HUMAN DEVELOPMENT 



Promoting Learning & Development Across the Lifespan

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Burton
Date and Time: January 21 – May 6 (Wednesdays 4:30 – 7:10 pm)
Class Location: Thompson Hall 2020
Telephone: 616-502-2175 – this is a cell phone, please text first to make sure I can take the call
E-mail: sburton7@gmu.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

COMMUNICATION

If you would like to get in touch with me, email is the best form (sburton7@gmu.edu). During usual circumstances, turnaround time is 24-36 hours. You can also reach me on my cell phone at 616-502-2175. However, please text me first using that phone asking if I can receive a call at that time. If I do not respond right away, then I am unavailable. I will, however, text back later and we can schedule a time to talk on the phone.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: EDCI 673. This is the second course in a two-part sequence of courses for preservice science teachers. The course is designed to build on the fundamentals of curriculum design and teaching from the first course and focus on using technology for students to investigate science and adapting instruction and assessment for the diverse needs of learners. In addition to using technology in the schools, preservice teachers will modify lessons and assessments to address the diverse needs of students, implement those lessons and assessments with their peers, and analyze the effectiveness of those lessons and assessments.

COURSE MATERIALS ONLINE

We will be using the website <https://sites.google.com/site/educ483673/> for dissemination of information. Materials will be added throughout the semester based upon needs from the course. The Blackboard site, found at <http://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>, will be used primarily for submitting assignments and grades. Use the same login as your GMU email for the Blackboard Sites.

GOOGLE SITES: Over the course of the semester, you will be working with partners to organize 4 weeks of teaching (in block schedules – roughly 75 min/lesson). You will be creating multiple products and support materials for these 4 weeks of teaching. All of these products and organization will be initially posted through a website you and your partners will author using Google Sites (<https://sites.google.com/>). In order to create a website with Google Sites, you will need to sign up for a gmail email account (if you do not already have one). More information on how to work with Google Sites can be found at <https://support.google.com/sites/?hl=en#topic=1689606>.

FIELD EXPERIENCE SIGNUP

The State of Virginia requires a number of hours of field work before you can do your internship. You will acquire 15 of those hours during this class. The university will place you in the field.

The website to sign up is <http://cehd.gmu.edu/endorse/ferf>.

NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY

A variety of teaching strategies will be used to explore the themes of the day. These will largely include face-to-face interactions with the professor and fellow students. All students will continuously analyze and evaluate teaching strategies, as well as science content, processes, and ways of knowing in science.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

You are encouraged to sign up for emergency alerts by visiting the website <https://alert.gmu.edu>. There are emergency posters in each classroom explaining what to do in the event of crises. Further information about emergency procedures exists on <http://www.gmu.edu/service/cert>.

BIG IDEAS IN SCIENCE EDUCATION

During this semester, we will be focusing on developing as a reflective practitioner of reformed science education practices. In particular we will focus on the following big ideas as a way to frame your understanding of effective science education practices throughout both Science Methods I and Science Methods II.

- Our job is to help them figure out how to be lifelong learners
- The more they figure out answers to tough questions on their own, the more they will trust they can learn on their own
- Science is a process that uses evidence to think critically and explain the natural world
 - Process leads to the knowledge we currently teach as facts
 - If students don't experience the process they won't value its ability to explain the natural world – plus they will only see science as a collection of facts
- Know your students – get into their heads when designing lessons
- Have a theory of learning – it is what should guide your instruction as you develop lessons
- Know what you want your students to be able to do and how you will assess it before you design any unit or lesson
- Measure everything you do against student learning
- You don't have to reinvent the wheel, but do need to customize it based on your objectives

LEARNING GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENTS (FOR BOTH METHODS I AND METHODS II)

Within the big ideas above are more specific goals and objectives (tasks) that you should be able to achieve by the end of the semester and two semester sequence of the Science Methods. Below is a list of the major goals with specific objectives and the assessments that will allow you to show that you have achieved those goals.

Goal: Build a learning theory and see the value in using it for developing and implementing lessons

Objective	Assignment	Who must do this?
Students will be able to explain why a student-centered approach to learning is effective in learning	Research Review	Methods I and II – Grad Students Only
Students will be able to describe their theory of learning, supporting with evidence from the literature	Learning Theory/ Teaching Philosophy	Methods I and II
Student will be able to design lessons that clearly reflect their learning theory	Lessons (Both), Unit Plan (Methods II), Microteaching Reflection (Both)	Methods I and II
Students will be able to explain how the 5-E lesson design, the Learning Cycle, and a student-centered learning theory are effective ways to think about learning and lesson design	Reflection Questions	Methods I and II

Goal: Do science to understand how science is done

Objective	Assignment	Who must do this?
Students will be able to conduct an investigation that results in new scientific knowledge	Scientific Investigation	Methods I
Students will be able to explain the epistemic features and unique characteristics (NOS) of science	Nature of Science Assignment	Methods I

Goal: Recognize that inquiry learning using scientific practices has inherent risks that should be identified and addressed such that students learn to do science in and ethical and safe manner.

Objective	Assignment	Who must do this?
Students will be able to explore the web to describe the major safety and ethical concerns associated with conducting science in the classroom	Safety Assignment	Methods I
Students will be able to describe means to reduce the potential safety risks involved in conducting scientific investigations in the classroom while not compromising the benefit the students get while conducting inquiries	Safety Assignment	Methods I
Students will be able to design lessons and clearly indicate within the lesson: safety concerns, how to	Lessons (Both), Unit Plan (Methods II)	Methods I and II

reduce them and what to do when accidents happen		
Goal: Develop an understanding of how inquiry can develop both scientific thinking and content knowledge		
Objective	Assignment	Who must do this?
Students will be able to explain what inquiry in a science class looks like	Reflection Questions	Methods I and II
Student will develop lessons that are inquiry	Lessons (Both), Unit Plan (Methods II)	Methods I and II
Students will be able to explain Model-Based Inquiry and its potential impact on helping students learn science content and scientific thinking	Reflection Questions	Methods I
Students will be able to develop lessons that incorporate Model-Based Inquiry	Lessons (Both), Unit Plan (Methods II)	Methods I and II
Students will be able to explain Cognitive Apprenticeships and its potential impact on helping students learn science content and scientific thinking	Reflection Questions	Methods I and II
Students will be able to develop lessons that incorporate Cognitive Apprenticeships	Lessons (Both), Unit Plan (Methods II)	Methods I and II

Goal: Understand how to develop effective lessons and units with backwards design

Objective	Assignment	Who must do this?
Student will be able to explain the basic premise and order of backwards	Reflection Questions	Methods I and II
Students will use the basic organization of backwards design to develop a lesson plan	Lessons (Both), Unit Plan (Methods II)	Methods I and II
Students will be able to write measurable objectives	Lessons (Both), Unit Plan (Methods II)	Methods I and II
Students will be able to describe how teaching activities support student achievement of measurable objectives	Lessons (Both), Unit Plan (Methods II), Microteaching Reflection (Both)	Methods I and II
Students will be able to describe how assessments evaluate student achievement of the measurable objectives	Lessons (Both), Unit Plan (Methods II), Microteaching Reflection (Both)	Methods I and II

Goal: Develop skills as reflective practitioners.

Objective	Assignment	Who must do this?
Students will be able to effectively examine classrooms using their learning theory as a lens and student behavior, engagement, and learning (when possible) as the evidence	Field Experience Paper	Methods I and II
Students will be able to examine use assessment data	Microteaching Reflection	Methods I and II

to reflect on and improve upon lessons	(Both)	
--	--------	--

RELATIONSHIP TO PROGRAM GOALS AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

EDCI 483/673 is the second course in a two-course sequence of science methods courses for students seeking a secondary school teaching license in earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics. The course builds on students' knowledge of their subject matter and from their first science methods course. The course focuses on using technology in science teaching and learning and meeting the diverse needs of learners as called for by the *Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools* and *National Science Education Standards* and as outlined by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), and the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC). EDCI 673 introduces students to integrating technology in learning and teaching science, adapting inquiry-based lessons, assessment techniques, and the diverse needs of students.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION STANDARDS (MET THROUGH EDCI 483/673)

- Understand the relationship of assessment in understanding student learning and informing instruction; RESEARCH-BASED PRACTICE; SPA STANDARD 8
- Design evidence-based assessment techniques in science instruction; RESEARCH-BASED PRACTICE; SPA STANDARD 8
- Build a repertoire of science teaching and assessment strategies using technology to help students become scientifically literate, think critically and creatively, and see relationships among science, technology, and society; RESEARCH-BASED PRACTICE; INNOVATION; COLLABORATION; SPA STANDARDS 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10
- Critique, adapt, and construct standards-based lessons including assessment and hands-on experiences for the diverse needs of learners including gender equity, cultural diversity, English language learners, gifted/talented students, and students with learning, physical, social, and emotional challenges. RESEARCH-BASED PRACTICE; SOCIAL JUSTICE; ETHICAL LEADERSHIP; SPA STANDARDS 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10

GRADING

High quality work and participation is expected on all assignments and in class. **Attendance at all classes for the entire class is a course expectation. For each unexcused absence, the course grade will be reduced by 5% points.** All assignments are graded. Each graded assignment will be assessed using a scoring rubric which will be handed out before the assignment is due. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Graded assignments that are late will automatically receive a ten percent grade reduction (one full letter grade lower).

GRADING SCALE

A = 93-100%
 A- = 90-92%
 B+ = 88-89%
 B = 80-87%
 C = 70-79%
 F = Below 70%

POLICY ON INCOMPLETES

If circumstances warrant, a written request for an incomplete must be provided to the instructor for approval prior to the course final examination date. Requests are accepted at the instructor's discretion, provided your reasons are justified and that 80% of your work has already been completed. Your written request should be regarded as a contract between you and the instructor and must specify the date for completion of work. This date must be at least two weeks prior to the university deadline for changing incompletes to letter grades.

ASSIGNMENTS

Science education research shows that frequent assessment of small amounts of material is most effective for learning science. Therefore, in this class formal and informal assessment will be continuously provided on assignments and class activities. Assessment is used as a tool for information that informs both learning and teaching, so this two-way communication loop is necessary for optimal learning.

Assessments	EDCI 483	EDCI 673	Due Date
Unit Plan (PBA)			
Unit Concept Map – Organization of Ideas	3	2	February 2
Unit Objectives/Assessments	3	2	February 16
Unit Plan Overview	3	2	February 23
Lesson 1 - Draft	6	5	March 2
Lesson 2 - Draft	6	5	March 16
Differentiated Lesson Plan (modification of Lesson 1 or 2)	4	4	March 23
Lesson 3 – Draft - Differentiated Lesson	10	10	March 30
Lesson 4 – Draft – Differentiated Lesson	10	10	April 13
Remaining components of unit plan	5	5	April 22
Other Assessments			
Research Review	NA	5	April 6
Learning Theory/Teaching Philosophy	5	4	April 27
Microteaching Reflection	10	10	May 11
Field Experience Paper	10	10	May 11
Reflection Questions	10	10	Varied
Professionalism	10	10	Varied
Total Points	100	100	

PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENTS (PBA) AND TASK STREAM

In this course, the entire unit plan is the Performance-Based Assessment. Every student registered for any Secondary Education course with a required performance-based assessment (will be designated as such in the syllabus) is required to submit these assessments to TaskStream (regardless of whether a course is an elective, a onetime course or part of an undergraduate minor.) Evaluation of your performance-based assessment will also be provided using TaskStream. Failure to submit the assessment to TaskStream will result in a the course instructor reporting the course grade as Incomplete(IN). Unless this grade is changed upon completion of the required TaskStream submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester.

Professionalism

Learning depends on the active engagement of the participant and frequent checking by the instructor as to the progress of the learner. Smaller assignments will be given as necessary in class in order to inform your learning and my teaching. Your participation in these assignments is essential to valuable class discussions and will help to “chunk” the large assignments into smaller, more attainable learning goal. Your classmates depend on your comments to extend their learning. Attendance for each class is necessary – please contact the professor BEFORE any absence.

See *Graduate School of Education Dispositions for A Career Educator* section below and follow the instructions to sign the form stating you will behave professionally during this course. You cannot earn

the points for professionalism UNTIL you have completed and signed the form. Attendance is an important component of professionalism to consider as well. Learning depends on the active engagement of the participant and frequent checking by the instructor as to the progress of the learner. Smaller assignments will be given as necessary in class in order to inform your learning and my teaching. Your participation in these assignments is essential to valuable class discussions and will help to “chunk” the large assignments into smaller, more attainable learning goal. Your classmates depend on your comments to extend their learning. Attendance for each class is necessary – please contact the professor BEFORE any absence. **Attendance at all classes for the entire class is a course expectation. For each unexcused absence, the course grade will be reduced by 5% points.**

TENTATIVE CALENDAR (SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON STUDENT NEEDS):

DATE	TOPIC
Jan 21	Backwards Design, Connecting Lessons– Work on Unit Concept Map-Organization of Ideas
Jan 28	Science Lesson Introduction to Model-Based Inquiry and Cognitive Apprenticeships
Feb 4	Science Lesson Introduction to Model-Based Inquiry and Cognitive Apprenticeships
Feb 11	Science Lesson - Assessment Work on objectives and summative assessment
Feb 18	Science Lesson – Assessment Work on Unit Plan Overview & Lesson 1
Feb 25	Science Lesson – Assessment Work on Lesson 1
Mar 4	Science Lesson - Understanding by Design Work on Lesson 2
Mar 11	NO CLASS SPRING BREAK
Mar 18	Science Lesson - Understanding by Design Work on Differentiated Lesson Plan
Mar 25	Work on Lesson 3
Apr 1	Science Lesson – Technology Work on Lesson 4
Apr 8	Work on lesson 4
Apr 15	Reflection - Using Assessment to Guide Instruction
Apr 22	Micro-Teaching – 3 groups
Apr 29	Micro-Teaching – 3 groups
May 6	Micro-Teaching – 3 groups
May 11	NO CLASS - ASSIGNMENTS DUE

ONLINE RESOURCES

- Achieve, Inc. on behalf of the twenty-six states and partners that collaborated on the NGSS (2013). Next Generation Science Standards (2013). Achieve, Inc. Available online at <http://www.nextgenscience.org/next-generation-science-standards>
- Commonwealth of Virginia (2010). *Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools*. Richmond, Virginia. Retrieved on August 14, 2011 from <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/index.shtml>
- Commonwealth of Virginia (2003). *Science Standards of Curriculum Framework Guides*. Retrieved on August 14, 2007 from <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Instruction/sol.html#science>.
- National Research Council (1996). *National science education standards*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press. Available online at http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=4962
- National Science Teachers' Association. *Science Class* newsletter. Retrieved on August 14, 2007 from <http://www.nsta.org/publications/enewsletters.aspx>.
- American Association for the Advancement of Science (1993). *Benchmarks for Science Literacy*. Retrieved on August 14, 2007 from <http://www.project2061.org/tools/benchol/bolframe.htm>.
- McComas, W. F. (1998). *The principle elements of the nature of science: Dispelling the myths*. Retrieved on August 14, 2007 from <http://coe.hp.uark.edu/pase/TheMythsOfScience.pdf>.
- Peters, E. E. (2006). *Why is teaching the nature of science so important?* Retrieved on August 14, 2007 from <http://www.vast.org/content/File/v1n1/linkedwhole.pdf>.
- American Chemical Society (2007). *Educators & Students page*. Retrieved on August 14, 2007 from <http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/educatorsandstudents.html>.
- American Chemical Society (2003). *Safety in Academic Chemistry Laboratories Accident Prevention for Faculty and Administrators*. (800 227-5558) Free single copies or online: http://membership.acs.org/c/ccs/pubs/sacl_faculty.pdf
- U.S. Government Printing Office (2007). *Code of Federal Regulations*. Retrieved on August 14, 2007 from <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>.
- U.S. Department of Labor (2007). *Occupational Health and Safety Administration*. Retrieved on August 14, 2007 from <http://www.osha.gov/>.
- American National Standards Institute (2007). *American National Standards Institute Homepage*. Retrieved on August 14, 2007 from <http://www.ansi.org/>.
- Maryland Public Schools (2007). *Legal Aspects of Laboratory Safety*. Retrieved on August 14, 2007 from <http://mdk12.org/instruction/curriculum/science/safety/legal.html>.

OTHER RESOURCES

- Barnekow, D. J. (1998). *Graphic organizers for science*. Portland, ME: J. Weston Walsh.
- Bell, R., Gess-Newsome, J. & Luft, J. (2008). *Technology in the secondary science classroom*. Arlington, VA: NSTA Press.
- Bybee, R. W., Powell, J. C., & Trowbridge, L. W. (2008). *Teaching secondary school science: Strategies for developing scientific literacy*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.
- Cothron, J. H., Giese, R. N., Rezba, R. J. (2005). *Students and Research*. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt.
- Hassard, J. (2005). *The art of teaching science: Inquiry and innovation in middle school and high school*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Johnson, D. W. & Johnson R. T. (1999). *Learning together and alone: Cooperative, competitive, and individualistic learning*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- Liu, X. (2010). *Essentials of science classroom assessment*. Washington, DC: Sage Publications.
- Nitko, A. J. & Brookhart, S. M. (2007). *Educational assessment of students*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson
- Kagan, S. (1994). *Cooperative Learning*. San Clemente, CA: Resources for Teachers, Inc.
- Keely, P., Eberle, F., & Farrin, L. (2005). *Uncovering student ideas in science: 25 formative assessment probes*. Arlington, VA: National Science Teacher Association Press.
- Keeley, P. (2008). *Science formative assessment: 75 practical strategies for linking assessment, instruction, and learning*. Arlington, VA: NSTA Press.
- Tomlinson, C. A. (2005). *How to differentiate instruction in mixed-ability classrooms*. Upper Saddle, NJ: Pearson.
- Tomlinson, C. A., & McTighe, J. (2006). *Integrating differentiated instruction and understanding by design*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD (200 pp).

SUSTAINABILITY AND DISPOSITIONS INFORMATION

SUSTAINABILITY AT GMU

George Mason University is focusing on making our community “greener” and reducing the impact on the environment. This course will contribute to this effort in the following ways. I hope that you will create other ways to contribute to this effort.

- Handouts will be available electronically through the Blackboard platform
- All assignments will be submitted through the blackboard on a Wiki site established for each individual student.
- You should consider reducing waste in your teaching practice (ex: unnecessary paper) and in developing your unit plan
- Incorporate teaching sustainability in the content of your lesson plans (for example, human’s role in reducing their impact on the environment.) Think about what the next generation needs to know about “greening”.

COLLEGE EXPECTATIONS AND UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE

- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See *Graduate School of Education Dispositions for A Career Educator* section below and follow the instructions.
- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/>].
 - Please note the following.
 - “Plagiarism encompasses the following:
 1. Presenting as one's own the words, the work, or the opinions of someone else without proper acknowledgment.
 2. Borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgment.” (from Mason Honor Code online at <http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>)
 - Paraphrasing involves taking someone else’s ideas and putting them in your own words. When you paraphrase, you need to cite the source using APA format.
 - When material is copied word for word from a source, it is a direct quotation. You must use quotation marks (or block indent the text) and cite the source.
 - Electronic tools (e.g., SafeAssign) may be used to detect plagiarism if necessary.
 - Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct are treated seriously and may result in disciplinary actions.
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>]
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. **All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.**
- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].

- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- The College of Education & Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles. <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>].

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION DISPOSITIONS FOR A CAREER EDUCATOR

Students are expected to exhibit professional behavior and dispositions. The Virginia Department of Education and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education promote standards of professional competence and dispositions. Dispositions are values, commitments, and professional ethics that influence behaviors toward students, families, colleagues, and all members of the learning community. The Graduate School of Education expects students, faculty, and staff to exhibit professional dispositions through a:

- I. Commitment to the profession**
 - Promoting exemplary practice
 - Excellence in teaching and learning
 - Advancing the profession
 - Engagement in partnerships
- II. Commitment to honoring professional ethical standards**
 - Fairness
 - Honesty
 - Integrity
 - Trustworthiness
 - Confidentiality
 - Respect for colleagues and students
- III. Commitment to key elements of professional practice**
 - Belief that all individuals have the potential for growth and learning
 - Persistence in helping individuals succeed
 - High standards
 - Safe and supportive learning environments
 - Systematic planning
 - Intrinsic motivation
 - Reciprocal, active learning
 - Continuous, integrated assessment
 - Critical thinking
 - Thoughtful, responsive listening
 - Active, supportive interactions
 - Technology-supported learning
 - Research-based practice
 - Respect for diverse talents, abilities, and perspectives
 - Authentic and relevant learning
- IV. Commitment to being a member of a learning community**
 - Professional dialogue
 - Self-improvement
 - Collective improvement
 - Reflective practice
 - Responsibility
 - Flexibility
 - Collaboration
 - Continuous, lifelong learning
- V. Commitment to democratic values and social justice**
 - Understanding systemic issues that prevent full participation
 - Awareness of practices that sustain unequal treatment or unequal voice
 - Advocate for practices that promote equity and access
 - Respects the opinion and dignity of others
 - Sensitive to community and cultural norms
 - Appreciates and integrates multiple perspectives

GO TO THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE, DOWNLOAD SIGN AND PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT AGREEING TO DEMONSTRATE THE ABOVE PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITIONS:

<http://cehd.gmu.edu/assets/docs/cehd/Dispositions%20for%20a%20Career%20Educator.pdf>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR LICENSURE COMPLETION

Student Clinical Practice: Internship Requirements

Testing

Beginning with Spring 2015 internships, **all** official and passing test scores must be submitted and in the Mason system (i.e. Banner/PatriotWeb) by the internship application deadline. Allow a minimum of six weeks for official test scores to arrive at Mason. Testing too close to the application deadline means scores will not arrive in time and the internship application will not be accepted.

Required tests:

- Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests (or qualifying substitute)
- VCLA
- Praxis II (Content Knowledge exam in your specific endorsement area)

For details, please check <http://cehd.gmu.edu/teacher/test/>

Endorsements

Please note that ALL endorsement coursework must be completed, with all transcripts submitted and approved by the CEHD Endorsement Office, prior to the internship application deadline. Since the internship application must be submitted in the semester prior to the actual internship, please make an appointment to meet with the Endorsement Specialist and plan the completion of your Endorsements accordingly.

CPR/AED/First Aid

Beginning with spring 2015 internships, verification that the Emergency First Aid, CPR, and Use of AED Certification or Training requirement must be submitted and in the Mason system (i.e. Banner/PatriotWeb) by the application deadline. Students must submit one of the "acceptable evidence" documents listed at <http://cehd.gmu.edu/teacher/emergency-first-aid> to CEHD Student and Academic Affairs. In order to have the requirement reflected as met in the Mason system, documents can be scanned/e-mailed to CEHDacad@gmu.edu or dropped-off in Thompson Hall, Suite 2300.

Background Checks/Fingerprints

All local school systems require students to complete a criminal background check through their human resources office (not through George Mason University) **prior to beginning the internship**. Detailed instructions on the process will be sent to the student from either the school system or Mason. Students are **strongly advised** to disclose any/all legal incidents that may appear on their records. The consequence of failing to do so, whether or not such incidents resulted in conviction, is termination of the internship.

Please Note: Your G-Number must be clearly noted (visible and legible) on the face of the document(s) that you submit.

Application

The internship application can be downloaded at <http://cehd.gmu.edu/teacher/internships-field-experience>
Deadlines:

Spring internship application:

- Traditional: September 15
- On-the Job: November 1

Fall internship application:

- Traditional: February 15
- On-the Job: May 1