

The SEED Newsfeed

The Monthly Newsletter of George Mason University's
Secondary Education (SEED) Program

June
2024

A Message from Dr. Zenkov

Dr. Kristien Zenkov, SEED Coordinator



One of the questions we are often asked as educators—regardless of the level, grade, or subject we teach—is how we do know the impact we have had on students' learning? How do we measure that impact and what is the evidence? Any teacher knows that this impact is difficult—sometimes impossible—to measure, in part because with each student it results from or takes the form of a different alchemy. Sometimes it's the topic that engages a student, sometimes it's their previous success in school, sometimes it's a supportive family that motivates them, and sometimes it's the unique influence of one extraordinary teacher.

The Secondary Education (SEED) program at George Mason is in the business of helping to develop those extraordinary teachers (We even have an elective with that name—SEED 509, "Perspectives on Extraordinary Teaching"!), and we have plenty of evidence that we're doing a pretty good job. Please forgive the lack of programmatic humility here: We just think it's time that a wider audience knew about the good work of our students, our graduates, our staff, our faculty, and our program. Thus, this issue of the *Newsfeed* is the first outward-facing that we've published and the first we are sending to a wide set of constituents beyond the college.

We ask you to scan the pages of the *Newsfeed* and learn about the accomplishments of what I call the "SEED Folk." And we invite you to reach out to these "folks" to learn more about their achievements, to partner with our faculty on a project or study that might serve your own students, to learn more about our new Bachelor's of Science in Secondary Education program, or perhaps to find that next extraordinary teacher for your school.

The beautiful thing about learning is that nobody can take it away from you.

-B.B. King, Musician



SEED

SECONDARY EDUCATION
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Upcoming Events

-Events are subject to change or cancellation-

June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month

The SEED Program recognizes that GMU stands on the traditional territory of the Kinwaw Paskestikweya or Piscataway Conoy and Dogue/Doeg Peoples

**Wednesday,
September 4,
2024**

Adult & Pediatric CPR
AED & First Aid

GMU has partnered with Mason Recreation to offer the American Red Cross CPR course. This course will include the hands-on component needed for Virginia Licensure. Upon completion, certifications are valid for two years
- Cost: \$80
- Time: 5pm – 9pm
- [Required registration link](#)

**Sunday,
September 8,
2024**

Adult & Pediatric CPR
AED & First Aid

GMU has partnered with Mason Recreation to offer the American Red Cross CPR course. This course will include the hands-on component needed for Virginia Licensure. Upon completion, certifications are valid for two years
- Cost: \$80
- Time: 11am – 3pm
- [Required registration link](#)

**Saturday,
October 5,
2024**

Adult & Pediatric CPR
AED & First Aid

GMU has partnered with Mason Recreation to offer the American Red Cross CPR course. This course will include the hands-on component needed for Virginia Licensure. Upon completion, certifications are valid for two years
- Cost: \$80
- Time: 11am – 3pm
- [Required registration link](#)

**Wednesday,
October 16,
2024**

Adult & Pediatric CPR
AED & First Aid

GMU has partnered with Mason Recreation to offer the American Red Cross CPR course. This course will include the hands-on component needed for Virginia Licensure. Upon completion, certifications are valid for two years
- Cost: \$80
- Time: 5pm – 9pm
- [Required registration link](#)

**Sunday,
November 17,
2024**

Adult & Pediatric CPR
AED & First Aid

GMU has partnered with Mason Recreation to offer the American Red Cross CPR course. This course will include the hands-on component needed for Virginia Licensure. Upon completion, certifications are valid for two years
- Cost: \$80
- Time: 11am – 3pm
- [Required registration link](#)

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Spring/Summer 2024 SEED Graduates

We are so incredibly proud of all the Spring 2024 SEED Program Graduates; it has truly been a privilege to work with and learn from each of you. Best of luck in this next phase of your journey!

Congratulations!

Breigh Elizabeth McKinney
Lockhart

Isabelle Madris Psaki

Katherine Sue Lerche

Ekim Tektas

Dillon J Newberg

Jack Bolz

Javier Alberto Hurtado

Jonathan E Olmstead

Jessica Nicole Spencer

John Anthony Deschauer

Daniel M Hughes

Kimberly R Strong

Catherine Marcus

Mariko Nojima-Schmunk

Eli Joel Mendelowitz

Victor Ezequiel Sawhney-Duran

Zachary Strasel

Hannah R Robertson

Merold Saffa

Hannah Park

Alexander J Corrigan

MacKenzie L Rankin

Bayan Hussein Souqi

Liudmila Ferrara

Karen E Diaz-Cruz

Tiffany Amber Parra

Melissa Alejandra Oliva Ortiz

Desiree Diane Hampton

Jason A Delozier

Sophia Jean Castle

Patricia Irene Moynihan

Andrew Magnet

Isaac William Shoultz

Ana Mattos

Elizabeth Katherine McNelis

Jack Wahl

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Spring/Summer 2024 Graduation

Check out some photos from the Spring/Summer 2024 Commencement



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SEED Student Awards

Take a minute to celebrate some outstanding SEED Students!

Secondary Education (SEED) Program Outstanding Students 2023-2024



Outstanding Student Award

Math: Christiana Edinborough

Science: Gabrielle Yu Zhou Eid

Social Studies: Mariko Nojima-Schmunk

English: Adriana Corvalan

Computer Science: Cullen O'Neill



Teachers of Promise

Sophia Castle
(History/Social Science)

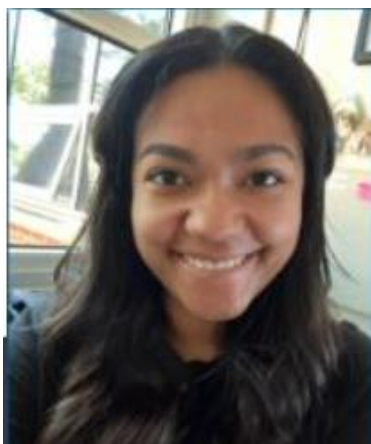
Virginia Scholars Award

Mike Daughtry
(History/Social Science)

**On behalf of the entire SEED Program,
Congratulations!**

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Jessie Pare, Hammond Middle School Teacher of The Year



Date of SEED Program Graduation: I graduated in the Spring of 2017.

Specialization: I am a 6/7 grade ELA teacher who works in the International Academy at Francis C. Hammond MS. I also have my Reading Specialist license. In the International Academy, I work with MLL (multi language learners) who have recently arrived in the United States. My job is to teach language and content at the same time to students at all different levels and cultural backgrounds.

How did you get nominated for Teacher of the Year? In our school, we do this in a two-step process. First teachers are asked to nominate a teacher that they believe is deserving of this award. Afterwards, the staff votes on their final nomination. My team (apparently) made a group text to nominate and vote for me.

Any advice for current SEED students? Find the people who are going to uplift you, care for you, and challenge you. Not only as a professional but as a person. These people are going to be the ones that allow you to grow and support your students in so many ways.

Why did you decide to pursue a career in education? When I was in school, I REALLY struggled due to things in my own personal life and mental health. I was convinced I wasn't smart. As I got older, though, I began to see that wasn't the case. With the support of amazing teachers, I saw that I was capable of so much more than I gave myself credit for. I also knew that the one thing I love to do is help others. That's when I decided to pursue teaching. I became a substitute teacher to see if this profession was right for me. Once I was in the classroom, I fell in love with education and never looked back.

Why did you choose the SEED Program? Funny enough, I have always wanted to go to Mason. I grew up in the Fairfax area and always wanted to go. I remember getting my acceptance letter after completing my degree at NOVA and everyone in my family crying. Anyway. I decided to join the SEED Program even before getting my undergrad. It was orientation day, and there was a meeting for those who wanted to be teachers. I loved how everyone was so supportive from the beginning and had the idea that education was more than learning. It was about building relationships and providing students the opportunity to explore the world that is much bigger than their own.

What was the highpoint of your time in the SEED Program? I met some of the most amazing people in the SEED program. Now I am a mentor teacher for future teachers, and I have had the honor of saying that one of my mentees is now my coworker and planning partner!

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Kaia M. Lazo, FCPS Region 2 Outstanding Secondary New Teacher 2022



Subject area: Social Studies for Secondary Education

Where do you work? Currently working as a 7th grade US History & AVID teacher at Luther Jackson Middle School in Falls Church, VA

How did you get nominated for this award? I was nominated for this award at the school level by my fellow faculty & staff at Luther Jackson, it then went to the pyramid level where my experience, evaluations, & supervisor recommendations were taken into account, then when I won my pyramid it was sent to the regional level where I interviewed a panel from FCPS Gatehouse and the School Board and submitted my reasons for teaching and why I chose to work at FCPS.

Why did you choose to pursue a career in education? I chose to pursue a teaching career because I realized in my military career that I had a knack of teaching my junior Marines and I enjoyed teaching classes and working with individuals to help them understand how to do something, and in that I found joy in teaching. I decided to focus on teaching in public schools and at the middle school level because I wanted to become the kind of teacher I wish I had when I was growing up. Those early teenage years are difficult and I struggled finding passion in school, so becoming a teacher that students looked forward to seeing and learning from became my mission.

Why did you choose the SEED Program? I chose the SEED program because I wanted to finish my education as quickly as possible while also having a program that would be rigorous enough to prepare me for the real deal.

What was the highpoint of your time in the SEED Program? My time in the SEED program was tricky, I started the BAM (Bachelors Accelerated Masters) one semester in when the COVID pandemic started. It was tricky navigating virtual classes, getting clinical's done, and working full time with virtual students as well. But my professors; Dr. Zenkov, Dr. Azevedo, and Dr. Helmsing, really made the program a worthwhile experience, I thoroughly enjoyed all of their classes and their guidance was essential to me becoming the kind of teacher I am today. The students within the program also helped shape that experience and I am glad to have worked with them all. If I had to choose one high point, I think I would either pick Dr. Helmsing's "Teaching Difficult History" course, or Dr. Azevedo's "Research in Secondary Education."

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Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) 2023 Outstanding Secondary School New Teachers

The process of nominating a candidate for the FCPS Outstanding Secondary School New Teacher Award begins at the school level through each school's awards liaison. The awards liaison at each school has information about the nomination process and deadlines. Any FCPS employee or community member can nominate a teacher for this award, but employees may not nominate themselves. Eligible candidates must be within the first three years of teaching and are aware of and in agreement with this nomination.

Award Criteria

Nominees are teachers who:

- Exhibit superior instructional skills
- Interact exceptionally well with students
- Demonstrate excellent ability to communicate and engage with faculty, staff, parents and the community
- Foster an environment where diversity in all of its forms is valued and appreciated and demonstrate keeping equity at the center of their work

Stone Middle School

Ashley Candeletti - Biology Teacher

Thoreau Middle School

Michelle Adams - English Teacher

Kilmer Middle School

Danielle Sweet - English Teacher

Fairfax High School

Lionardo Quezada Guevara - History & Social Studies Teacher

Frost Middle School

YuJeong Julia Shin - Mathematics Teacher

Holmes Middle School

Samiran Ibrahim - English Teacher

Luther Jackson Middle School

Catherine Marcus - History & Social Studies Teacher

Annandale High School

Allyson Pak - Mathematics Teacher

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Teachers of Promise Institute

The Teachers of Promise (TOP) Institute seeks to identify and recognize the best prospective teachers from college and university Schools of Education across Virginia. The goal of the TOP Institute is to celebrate the calling to teach, to elevate the teaching profession to the status it deserves, and to activate participants to navigate their true potential.

Yong Joon Park, Teachers of Promise 2023



Subject area: Computer Science and Math

Why did you decide to pursue a career in education? I have worked for many companies, from minor to major, and have watched employees grow from new hires to full-fledged individual leaders. In addition, as an organization leader, I have been responsible for the professional development of many individuals in the corporate business and technical research departments. From my experiences working with those individuals, I have realized that education is the cornerstone of fostering successful leaders. After about 30 years in the corporate world, I have learned what companies look for in new hires and what it takes to succeed in such a competitive world. It is one of my goals to pass my knowledge and experience on to future generations so that they may use this knowledge and experience to be successful and create a better future.

Why did you choose the SEED Program? The university was an attention-grabbing choice. One data point that caught my interest was that one-third of educators and administrators in Northern Virginia are graduates of the School of Education at George Mason University. Because Northern Virginia has been one of the most successful education districts in the US and is also known for having one of the most stringent screening systems for educators, the data point was compelling enough for me to choose the SEED program at George Mason University.

In addition, the SEED program's core values helped me comprehend the program's guiding principles as critical to molding the essential mindsets and behaviors of future teachers. Core values are the fundamental beliefs of most institutions, and such definition is not different between the corporate world and education. Also, prior experience in the industry taught me that strong core values play a critical role in shaping the culture and identity of institutions. Thus, I chose the SEED program at George Mason University.

What was the highpoint of your time in the SEED Program? In the educational psychology class, I learned that a caring environment creates intrinsic motivation in students. And experiencing the learning in person was one of the high points of my time at the SEED. During a semester at George Mason, I unexpectedly discontinued my education due to a medical issue. The subsequent unforeseeable future in my studying came to me as a fear, which was a greater anxiety than one from the medical challenge. What brought me back to a normal state of mind was outpouring of support from the SEED members, including the school faculty, my course professors, and colleagues. Such support provided me with a profound experience in what caring was supposed to be and how caring restarted my desire to continue to study. The SEED gave me a learning experience both in the classroom and in real life. It was a learning I consider one of the most noteworthy from the SEED.

Sophia Castle, Teachers of Promise 2024



Specialization/Content Area: History/Social Sciences

Why did you decide to pursue a career in education? Ever since I can remember, I wanted to be a teacher. I have always been drawn to the profession, and this drive only got stronger as I went through secondary school. I had an outstanding Spanish level two and three teacher who was very supportive and caring; I knew that I could always come to her for help or guidance. Because of this experience, I knew that I wanted to be a dependable support system for students.

Why did you choose the SEED Program? I chose the SEED Program since I significantly enjoyed my undergraduate experience at Mason and wanted to continue my education here. I also knew that I desired

to pursue the BAM program since I knew it would help me to reach my goal of being a teacher in the most efficient and enriching way possible. Finally, the SEED Program's values aligned closely with my own.

What has been the highpoint of your time in the SEED Program? Meeting and learning from my wonderful peers and outstanding professors throughout the program has been extremely valuable to me. Also, the immense confidence I have gained in my lesson planning and teaching abilities in such little time throughout the program is something I am sure I will look back on fondly for years to come.

How does it feel to be selected for The Teachers of Promise Institute? I am so grateful that the SEED Program had confidence in me to select me for this opportunity. I feel extremely thankful and excited to learn as much as I can from this experience in the spring!

What advice do you have for current and future SEED students who are interested in being nominated for Teachers of Promise? My biggest piece of advice is to claim your education. Take advantage of as many opportunities that come your way as you can. Challenge yourself whenever you are able. Speak up even if you are the only one. Do not be afraid to seem "too eager"; do everything possible to learn as much as you can in this short period of time since your hard work will pay off.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I enjoy trying out new recipes, going on walks, and spending time with my family and friends. I also love doing anything creative to unwind, such as completing paint by numbers and coloring books.

The Virginia Scholars Award

The Virginia Scholars Award was established in 1997 by the IOTA (VA) State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma. Delta Kappa Gamma is an international society that promotes excellence in education. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding education graduates at Virginia's four-year colleges and universities that offer teacher training.

Mike Daughtry, Virginia Scholars Award 2024



Subject area specialization: Social Studies

Why did you decide to pursue a career in education? I actually struggled immensely in elementary, middle, and high school. One of the main reasons I joined the Marine Corps in the first place was because I did not think that I could succeed in doing anything else. However, I remember always loving history, and was lucky to have had a few fantastic social studies teachers. Those teachers helped spark my life-long interest in the subject, an interest which would see me through a bachelor's degree in history. Not long into my undergrad, I realized that it would be an honor to be that teacher for students who struggled as I did. I am nearly a year into the SEED program and know I made the right choice.

Why did you choose GMU's SEED Program? My choice in George Mason, and by extension the SEED program, was largely a result of location. However, I have found this school and program to be excellent for creating intelligent, caring, and impactful educators.

To what extent has your military career prepared you for a career in education? My experience in the military has given me a wide range of skills that I believe to be crucial in the field of education. I was put into a high stress leadership position by the age of 19. I learned to thrive in a team setting, make snap decisions, and adapt to tough situations. However, the skill I am most proud of, and a direct consequence of being an infantry Marine, is my almost ignorant reluctance to fail at the task I am given.

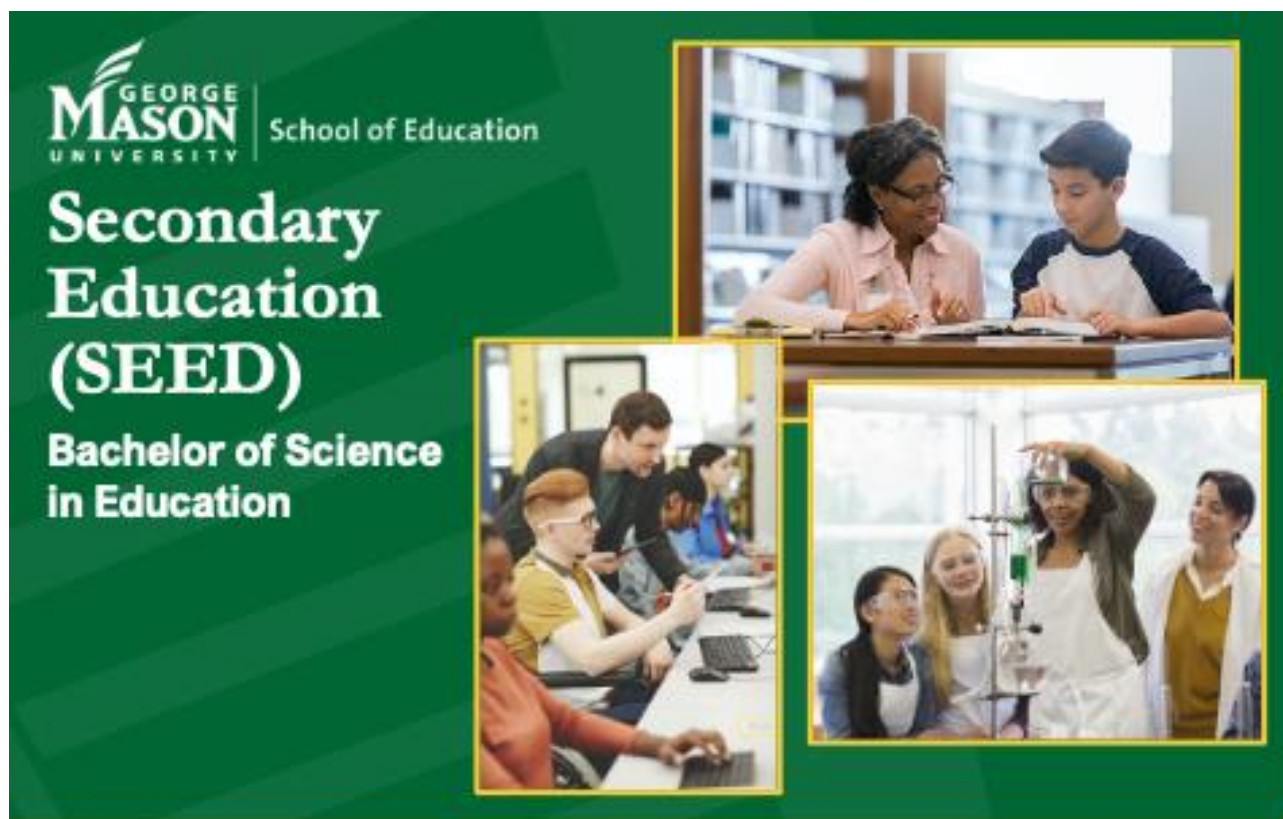
What should current military personnel know about pursuing a career in education? My advice to service members interested in pursuing a career in education is: "Do It!" You have the patience, skills, adaptability, and life perspectives that this field so desperately needs.

What has been the highpoint of your time in the SEED Program so far? One of my high points during the SEED program was taking Dr. Helmsing's Teaching and Learning Difficult History class over the summer. The class discussed at length what I consider to be one of the more important aspects of history education. I cannot recommend it enough.

Military Background: I served four years in the United States Marine Corps Infantry as an 0341 Mortarman.

Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education

The SEED Program is proud to introduce its newest program.



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY | School of Education

Secondary Education (SEED)

Bachelor of Science in Education

Is This Program For You?

Turn your passion for your favorite high school subject into a fulfilling career as a high school or middle school teacher!

Our BSEd program in Secondary Education (SEED) uniquely combines the necessary coursework in your chosen subject area with the required pedagogical training for licensure. This all-inclusive program prepares you for a **Virginia Secondary Education teaching license, grades 6-12**. You'll develop a deep understanding of your subject of choice and learn effective instructional methods, culminating with a hands-on internship in your final semester to refine your classroom skills.

Licensure Options

Starting in Fall 2024

- English
- History/Social Science
- Computer Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth Science

Pending Approval

- Mathematics
- Physics

Where This Degree Will Take You

Graduates of this program will be eligible for initial Virginia licensure that will put them on a path to a rewarding career teaching sixth through twelfth grade, in a high school or middle school.

Secondary Education

EDUCATION.GMU.EDU/SECONDARY-EDUCATION

Career-Ready Experience

The Secondary Education (SEED) program has a strong partnership network with 20 schools in Northern Virginia. The veteran teachers who serve as the program's mentor teachers—many of whom are Mason's SEED program graduates—ensure that students gain “hands-on” experience and build confidence to become excellent teachers. Before being admitted to their semester-long internship at one of the partner schools during their final semester, students must complete the necessary coursework and pass related state licensure exams.

Career Opportunities

High School or Middle School Subject Area Teacher, 6th through 12th Grade

- Teacher: Biology (pending approval)
- Teacher: Chemistry (pending approval)
- Teacher: Computer Science
- Teacher: Earth Science (pending approval)
- Teacher: English
- Teacher: History/Social Studies
- Teacher: Math (pending approval)
- Teacher: Physics (pending approval)

Application Deadlines

Freshman

- Non-Binding Early Action: November 1
- Regular Decision: January 15

Transfer

- Fall Priority Deadline: March 1
- Spring Priority Deadline: October 1

Interesting Facts

- **Transfer Students:** Northern Virginia Community College students may be eligible to enroll in the ADVANCE program to ensure a smooth transfer process and completion of the Secondary Education major within an estimated two years of admission to Mason.
- **100% Job Placement:** Virginia public schools are experiencing a teacher shortage and are eager to hire well-prepared Patriots coming out of our teacher preparation programs.
- **Student Support:** Workshops and personalized tutoring are available to help you complete your degree and prepare for the exams required for licensure.

For More Information

College of Education and Human Development
Secondary Education
Thompson Hall, Suite 1800
4400 University Drive, MS 4B3
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

seed@pmu.edu

703-993-3696



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Fall 2024 Course Registration

Take a look at the current list of SEED classes for the Fall 2024 Semester.

Science Methods Classes

Science Methods I (SEED 573)

- Instructor: Peters-Burton
- In-Person Class
- Mondays 4:30 – 7:10
- Room TBD

Social Studies Methods Classes

Social Studies Methods I (SEED 567)

- Instructor: Porter
- In-Person Class
- Mondays 4:30 – 7:10
- Room TBD

Social Studies Methods II (SEED 667)

- Instructor: Herrera
- In-Person Class
- Tuesdays 4:30 – 7:10
- Room TBD

Math Methods Classes

Math Methods I (SEED 572)

- Instructor: TBD
- In-Person Class
- Mondays 4:30 – 7:10
- Room TBD

English Methods Classes

English Methods I (SEED 569)

- Instructor: Zenkov
- In-Person Class
- Mondays 4:30 – 7:10
- Room TBD

Computer Science Methods Classes

Computer Science Methods I (SEED 466/566)

- Instructor: Kaya
- In-Person Class
- Mondays 4:30 – 7:10
- Room TBD

Foundations of Secondary Education

Foundations (SEED 522)

- Instructor: Lague
- In-Person Class
- Wednesdays 4:30 – 7:10
- Room TBD

Foundations (SEED 522)

- Instructor: Dippold
- In-Person Class
- Wednesdays 4:30 – 7:10
- Room TBD

Additional SEED Classes

Human Dev/Lrn (SEED 540)

- Instructor: Porter
- Virtual Hybrid: Synch & Asynch
- Thursdays 4:30 – 7:10
- Room N/A

Digital and Pop Culture Media (EDCI 617)

- Instructor: Kaler-Jones
- Virtual Asynchronous
- Thursdays 4:30 – 7:10
- Room N/A

Disciplinary Literacy (EDRD 419/619)

- Instructor: TBD
- Virtual Asynchronous
- Thursdays 5:00 – 7:00

Action Research Methods (SEED 677)

- Instructor: Herrera
- Virtual Hybrid: Synch & Asynch
- Tuesday 7:20 – 10:00

SEED Internship Seminar Fall 2024

Action Research Seminar (SEED 678)

- Instructor: Mascelli
- Hybrid
- Wednesday 5:00 – 7:00

Celebrating SEED Faculty

As an R1 research university, George Mason is one of the highest-ranked research institutions in the country, according to the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. In addition to being excellent educators, SEED professors also make significant contributions to the field of education. Take a minute to learn about some of our instructors and the highlights of their good work.

Erin E. Peters-Burton, PhD (Full-Time Faculty)



Dr. Peters-Burton posing with "Mallow" on her farm. "Mallow" leads an award-winning herd of goats and produces 3 pounds of cashmere a year.

Congratulations to Dr. Erin Peters-Burton and her team for winning the 2023 Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition Programs That Work Award!

About the Project: In October 2018, Dr. Erin Peters-Burton, Dr. Anastasia Kitsantas (Mason), Dr. Tim Cleary (Rutgers) and Dr. Peter Rich (BYU) received a \$3.4 million grant from the National Science Foundation to develop the Science Practices Innovation Notebook (SPIN) to help high school science students better understand data practices while being supported with computational thinking and self-regulated learning practices. SPIN was developed in a researcher-practitioner partnership with 18 Loudoun County Public School teachers for the past 3 years.



About the Award: The Virginia Mathematics & Science Coalition recognizes effective student and teacher educational programs through its "Programs that Work" Awards. The Coalition reviews exemplary programs for which there is evidence of a positive impact on student or teacher learning. Proposals are evaluated on the extent to which they:

- Represent innovative, exemplary programs that have proven effective with all students or teachers
- Demonstrate the important science concept skills or processes students and teachers learned as a result of the programs
- Document impact on teaching and learning

Current Project: Dr. Peters-Burton has recently published two books for the STEM Road Map Curriculum Series: "Creating Global Bonds, Grade 12" and "The Speed of Green, Grade 8." The series currently includes 26 books, with five more coming in the next two years. Although she is incredibly busy, Dr. Peters-Burton was kind enough to answer a few questions about the project.

What is the STEM Roadmap Curriculum Series? The STEM Roadmap Curriculum Series is a collection of 5-week integrated project-based learning lesson plans that address standards from Science, Mathematics, English and Social Studies. We have a total of 26 books out now with 5 more coming in the next 2 years. All of the books represent the integrated 5-week plan along with the research that supports the structure of the lesson plans.

Kristien Zenkov, PhD (Full-Time Faculty)



Recent Book Publications: Dr. Zenkov is the co-author (with Meagan Call-Cummings and Jeff Keller) of the forthcoming book *Talking Equity in Polarized Times: Stories and Strategies from Teachers, for Teachers* (Taylor & Francis/Routledge). He is also the lead editor and chapter author of the forthcoming book, *Clinically-Based Teacher Education in Action: The AACTE Clinical Practice Commission Proclamations and Cases of Teacher Education Innovation*(Information Age), and he is the co-editor and chapter author of the forthcoming book *Boundary-Spanning in Teacher Education* (Information Age).

Lead Editor of guest-edited issue of *The New Educator*: Dr. Zenkov is the lead editor of a guest-edited issue of *The New Educator* focused on opportunity gaps in teacher education.

Co-Director of the “Inquiry Initiative” of the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE): The Inquiry Initiative is a 3-year collaborative research project focused on “opportunity gaps.” As part of ATE’s latest strategic planning, Dr. Zenkov helped to formulate the Initiative concept and structure, and he is currently serving as the Co-Director of the project, leading 70+ scholars in examinations of opportunity gaps in teacher education.

Executive Director of the National Center for Clinical Practice in Educator Preparation: The Center is the only national organization dedicated to advancing high-quality clinical educator preparation through capacity-building, partnership development, and bringing research to practice with local contexts. The Center is currently engaged in the development of mentoring structures in Washington state and in the publication of book on clinical practice.

Pre-Service and Induction Mentoring in Washington State: Dr. Zenkov is the Project Director of a \$2.3 million federal grant-supported project examining and developing pre-service and induction mentoring structures in Washington state. The project is a collaboration of the National Center for Clinical Practice in Educator Preparation, the Washington Professional Education Standards Board, and the Learning Policy Institute.

President-Elect of the Virginia Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators (VACTE): The Virginia Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators is the Virginia state affiliate of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) and the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE). Dr. Zenkov serves as its current President-Elect and will ascend to the presidency in 2025.

Editorial Board of *Handbook of Research on Teacher Education*: Dr. Zenkov was recently selected to serve as an Editorial Board member for the development and publication of the 4th edition of the *Handbook of Research on Teacher Education*.

Winner of the inaugural “Boundary-Spanning University-Based Teacher Educator” Award: Recognizing his work with critical, project-based clinical experiences, Dr. Zenkov won the inaugural “Boundary-Spanning University-Based Teacher Educator” Award (2023) from the National Association for School-University-Partnerships.

Co-Director, Mentoring Virginia Project: Dr. Zenkov serves as the Co-Director of Mentoring Virginia, focused on providing training to pre-service and induction mentors. The project is funded by the Virginia Department of Education and free access to the project modules can be found at www.mentoringvirginia.com.

Theresa Wills, PhD (Full-Time Faculty)



Theresa's research focuses on mathematics education at all levels from kindergarten through high school with a focus on inquiry based learning and online teaching pedagogies. Theresa recently received the William C. Lowry Mathematics Educator of the Year award from the Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Every semester, they take a course at Mason just for fun. This semester, they are taking painting. Outside of work, Theresa likes to travel, hike, and enjoy visiting National Parks with their family.

Erdogan Kaya, PhD (Full-Time Faculty)



Dr. Kaya's summer is dedicated to innovative research that promises to significantly impact pre-college computing education. Read on to discover how his projects are shaping the future of Computer Science and STEM education:

Robotics Curriculum: Dr. Kaya, along with his colleagues, secured a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop an elementary robotics curriculum that integrates computer science with math, science, and literacy for multilingual learners. This project, initiated in 2021, involves collaboration with George Mason University, University of Nevada Las Vegas, University of South Carolina Upstate, and Weber

State University. It aims to enhance the understanding of computer science concepts among grades 3-5 students and improve teachers' efficacy in diverse classrooms through professional development.

Inclusive Computer Science Curriculum: Another key project focuses on implementing the Inclusive Computer Science (ICS) model of professional development (PD) and the CoCo digital learning platform for PK-6 students, including those with high-incidence disabilities. This NSF-funded initiative, in collaboration with colleagues from George Mason University, University of Alabama, and University of Albany, seeks to reform and scale curriculum development and introduce new approaches for supporting students with disabilities in learning computer science.

AI in Education: Dr. Kaya is also part of a team developing a digital platform to help K-12 students critically evaluate and ethically use AI-generated content in science-focused writing. Collaborating with Drs. Amy Hutchison and Lori Bruner from the University of Alabama, this NSF-supported project aims to address the rapid advancements in AI and ensure students understand the importance of verifying information accuracy. The platform, "Compose with AI", guides students on the ethical use of AI tools like Gemini, Claude, and ChatGPT.

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Meghan S. Mascelli, Ed.D. (Adjunct Professor)



In addition to being a SEED instructor, Dr. Mascelli is an Education Specialist in the Office of Professional Learning, for Fairfax County Public Schools. In this role, Dr. Mascelli works with the county's new educator induction program, Great Beginnings, serving nearly 2,000 educators each year. Additionally, she creates and delivers professional development for new educators, as well as the teacher leaders who support them. Serving as a SEED instructor and then in her FCPS role, Dr. Mascelli cherishes the unique opportunity to work with pre-service teachers in their coursework, support them in their induction, and provide learning opportunities to support them in their professional journeys. Just for fun, she combines her love of teaching with her love of fitness as she coaches Orange Theory and several other exercise classes.

Rory Dippold, PhD. (Adjunct Professor)



In addition to being a SEED instructor, Dr. Dippold is an IB Middle Years Programme Coordinator in Falls Church City Public Schools, he serves on the middle school and high school administration teams. He supports and oversees the implementation of the MYP (grades 6-10), ensuring that the curriculum and teaching practices align with IB standards. He also supports teachers, manages capstone projects and the MYP certificate process in 10th grade, and facilitates communication between central office and the IB organization.

Lynda Herrera, Ed.D. (Assistant Professor)



Dr. Herrera's research interests include the engagement of young learners in social studies education; educational experiences of minority students in middle schools; and the examination of how pre-service teachers think through their experience as educators. As a military spouse, she has had the pleasure of teaching at multiple Universities in New York, Kansas, Hawai'i, and Virginia. She has served on the Editorial Board of the Social Studies and the Young Learner Journal for the National Council of Social Studies since 2011. Dr. Herrera enjoys gardening, travel, and time with her husband and two children as she follows them around to various Comic-Cons.

Andrew Porter, PhD. (Assistant Professor)



Dr. Porter's research agenda is based in leveraging educational psychology to bolster pre-service and in-service teacher education. He is specifically interested in examining how self-regulated learning theory can support social studies teachers in developing student centered and inquiry-based instructional lessons.

In addition to teaching SEED classes and pursuing his research agenda, Dr. Porter has served as an editor for *The Teacher Educator's Journal*, the journal for the Virginia state affiliate of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) and the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE). He has also served on the assistant editor for *School University*

Partnerships, the flagship journal for the National Association of Professional Development Schools.

He was recently invited to join a professional development project at The Wakefield School in The Plains, Virginia. The purpose of this multi-year researcher-practitioner partnership is to work with a small group of core teachers to design integrated STEM opportunities across the curriculum and to help increase external STEM partnerships with the school.

Content Area Review

ATTENTION SEED STUDENTS!!!!

All new SEED students must meet with the Pre-Education Advising Coordinator to have their Content Area Review (CAR). The Content Area Review, is an assessment by a professional advisor to determine if you satisfy the prerequisite requirements for a specific teaching licensure program, as required by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). If you haven't met all the requirements yet, the Content Area Advisor can help you find the classes you need to take to get there.



Scan the QR Code to schedule your Content Area Review today!



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SEED Internship News

The Internship experience is the capstone of the SEED Program. While working with Mentor Teachers (MTs) and Clinical Coaches (CCs), SEED Interns gradually transition to providing instruction full-time during their 15-week practicum. The SEED Internship is offered each Fall semester and each Spring semester. The SEED Internship does not occur in summer terms.

Internship Calendar for Fall, 2024

Prior to August 12	Contact your mentor and introduce yourself
August 19	All Interns Must Begin Reporting to Schools
August 21	Mandatory Internship Orientation from 5 to 7
August 28	First Session of SEED 678 Seminar course on campus
September 9	Last Day to Withdraw with 100% Refund
December 6	Final Day of Internship & University Courses

Interns must follow their school's calendar for breaks, PD days, weather delays, etc.

****Interns follow their school's holiday breaks, not Mason's.****

****Do NOT plan vacations or other trips during your internship****



If you have questions about the SEED Internship, please email Lisa Green (lgreen@gmu.edu) who is the Coordinator of Clinical Experiences for the SEED Program.

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SEED Partner Schools

George Mason University is proud to partner with area secondary schools that host our teacher candidates for clinical experiences across our SEED courses. The Mason Partner School Network is comprised of high schools and middle schools in Fairfax County Public Schools, Prince William County Public Schools, Loudoun County Public Schools, Manassas City Public Schools, Alexandria City Public Schools, and Falls Church City Public Schools. Our current partners include the following schools:

[Alexandria City High School / Hammond Middle School \(ACPS\)](#)

[Lake Braddock Secondary School \(FCPS\)](#)

[Chantilly High School / Rocky Run Middle School \(FCPS\)](#)

[Robinson Secondary School \(FCPS\)](#)

[Marshall High School / Kilmer Middle School \(FCPS\)](#)

[West Potomac High School / Sandburg Middle School \(FCPS\)](#)

[Osborn Park High School / Saunders Middle School \(PWCS\)](#)

[John Champe High School / Mercer Middle School \(LCPS\)](#)

[Dominion High School / Seneca Ridge Middle School \(LCPS\)](#)

[Meridian High School / Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School \(FCCPS\)](#)

[Osborn High School / Metz Middle School \(MCPS\)](#)

[Annandale High School](#)

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Subject Area Advising

Each student in the SEED Program is assigned to a Subject Area Advisor based on their content area. Please use the information below to identify your Subject Area Advisor.

English



Kristien Zenkov, Ph.D.

Phone: (703) 993-5413
Fax: (703) 993-5300
Email: kzenkov@gmu.edu

Math



Theresa Wills, Ph.D.

Phone: (703) 993-6215
Fax: (703) 993-3643
Email: twills@gmu.edu

Science



Erin Peters-Burton, Ph.D.

Phone: (703) 993-9695
Fax: (703) 993-2013
Email: epeters1@gmu.edu

Social Studies



Lynda Herrera, Ed.D.

Email: lherrer8@gmu.edu

Computer Science



Erdogan Kaya, Ph.D.

Phone: (703) 993 1033
Email: ekaya3@gmu.edu

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Got a question? We've got you covered.

Navigating the SEED Program in a timely manner
 General Student support
 Professionalism Guidance
 Time Management
 Liaison to Learning Services
 Academic Resources
 Assistive Technology

Ask Me About:



Dr. Andrew Porter

**SEED Advisor/
Student Success
Coach**

Course Selection
 Choice of Electives
 Licensure Requirements
 CPR
 Praxis
 VCLA
 Professional Resource
 Post-Graduation Support
 Long Term Course Mapping
 Schedule Mapping

Ask Me About:



**Depends on
Content Area**

Faculty Advisor

**I am a Mason
Student and I
Have a Question!**



Lisa Green

**Clinical
Experience
Coordinator**

Ask Me About:
 Clinical Experience Placement
 Internship Placement
 Internship Application



Mathilde Speier

Office Manager

Ask Me About:
 Anything regarding forms, permissions, and administrative matters
 Registration errors/ overrides
 (Late) Graduation Applications
 Graduation questions
 Waivers/ Course Substitutions
 Elective Approvals
 Degree Works errors
 BAM Questions and BAM Transition Forms
 Re-Enrollment Applications
 Admissions
 Announcements
 Campus and University Information
 Schedules and Course Updates
 Grade Appeals

SEED Program FAQ

Question	Answer	Contact
<i>Where can I find information about obtaining my teaching license?</i>	You can find information about licensure at this CEHD link: Licensure Application Instructions Licensure Application Instructions School of Education	Ms. Jennifer Urban Licensure Coordinator, Jurban6@gmu.edu Office: Thompson Hall 2307 Phone: (703) 993-2094 Fax: (703) 993-9712
<i>I am looking for help with some written work. Where can I get help?</i>	You can find help at The Writing Center.	The Writing Center (gmu.edu)
<i>I cannot register for my class.</i>	Contact Ms. Mathilde Speier	mspeier@gmu.edu
<i>My electives are not showing in my degree audit.</i>	Contact Ms. Mathilde Speier	mspeier@gmu.edu
<i>What is my graduation status?</i>	Contact Ms. Mathilde Speier	mspeier@gmu.edu
<i>I forgot to apply for graduation.</i>	Contact Ms. Mathilde Speier	mspeier@gmu.edu

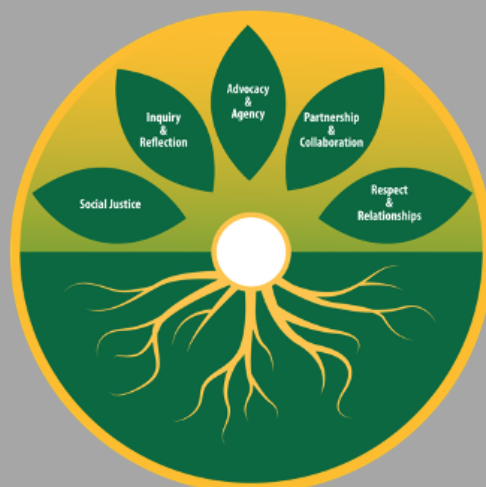
Did you find these helpful? Have more questions? Check out the SEED “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ) document: [SEED FAQ,Directory,Glossary May 2022.docx](#)

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Secondary Education

Be a Teacher. *Pass it on.*



SEED
SECONDARY EDUCATION

Is This Program For You?

Turn your passion for your favorite high school subject into a fulfilling career as a middle school or high school teacher. Our BSED and MEd programs in Secondary Education uniquely combine the necessary coursework in your chosen subject area with the required pedagogical training for licensure. This all-inclusive program prepares you for a Virginia Secondary Education teaching license, grades 6-12. You'll develop a deep understanding of your subject of choice and learn effective instructional methods, culminating with a hands-on internship in your final semester to refine your classroom skills.

Licensure Options

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Earth Science
- English
- History/Social Science
- Mathematics
- Physics

Career Ready Experience

- The Secondary Education program has a strong partnership network with 20 schools in Northern Virginia. Their mentor teachers, many of whom are Mason's SEED program graduates, ensure that students gain "hands-on" experience and build confidence to become excellent teachers.
- Before being admitted to their semester-long internship at one of the partner schools during their final semester, students must complete the necessary coursework and pass two state licensure exams.

For More Information

College of Education and Human Development
Office of Admissions
Thompson Hall, Suite 1700
4400 University Drive, MS 4D1
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

seed@gmu.edu

703-993-2892

