



Middle School Endorsement Course Descriptions

EDUC 231: Topics in Middle School Growth & Development

This course will allow practicing teachers to explore the developmental characteristics of young adolescents. Understanding the unique qualities of middle level learners and finding developmentally appropriate ways to incorporate young adolescent interests and needs will be the essential core of the course. Modeling best practices, using an inquiry-based methodology, and incorporating multiple opportunities to incorporate current teaching scenarios will serve as the guiding pedagogy. Students will discover ways to align their beliefs and planning with the developmental characteristics of young adolescents through reading, discussing, writing, and designing authentic examples of developmentally responsive middle level teaching and learning practices.

EDUC 234: Middle School Curriculum & Methods

A historical call for specialized preparation of middle level teachers has been integral to the continued need for improving the educational experiences of young adolescents. Middle level teachers who work with young adolescents recognize the uniqueness of the age group, as individuals and as learners. In a developmentally responsive middle level school, teachers work in interdisciplinary teams, facilitate student involvement in curriculum development, incorporate multiple resources and strategies, and focus on young adolescents' interests and needs. This course will model the core practices of developmentally responsive middle level education through interdisciplinary teamwork and integrated curriculum design as students actively engage in a shared vision of effective middle level education.

For course schedules, additional requirements, and professor bios, visit www.Drake.edu/edex/offcampus.