

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION (GRADES 5-9)**

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A. A baccalaureate degree from a college or university having a teacher education program approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or from a college or university having a teacher education program approved by the state education agency in states other than Missouri;
- B. Must have recommendation of designated official for teacher education in the college or university;
- C. Must have a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale overall and in the major area of study;
- D. Must complete the content knowledge or specialty area test designated by the State Board of Education with a score equal to or greater than the Missouri qualifying score;
- E. Completion of professional requirements, as determined by the recommending college or university, which may exceed these minimum requirements; and
- F. Individuals who completed their teacher education program outside of the United States shall provide documentation of completion of course work in the following:
 - 1. English Composition, two (2) courses, each a minimum of two (2) semester hours;
 - 2. U.S. History, three (3) semester hours; and
 - 3. U.S. Government, three (3) semester hours.

II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS: A minimum of fifty-three (53) semester hours in professional education. Competency must be demonstrated in each area listed to the satisfaction of the teacher preparation institution.

A. Foundations for Teaching (Minimum requirement of twelve (12) semester hours):

- 1. **The Pupil/Society**—A minimum of eight (8) semester hours with knowledge acquired and competency developed to the satisfaction of the teacher preparation institution in the following areas:
 - a. Personalized Teaching Strategies;
 - b. *Adolescent Psychology or Psychology of the Middle Level Child (physical, mental development which includes substance abuse, sexuality and peer pressure concerns);
 - c. Psychology of Learning;
 - d. *Psychology and/or Education of the Exceptional Child (including the Gifted);
 - e. Techniques of Classroom Management; and
 - f. Tests and Measurements; and
- 2. **The School/Society**—A minimum of four (4) semester hours with knowledge acquired and competency developed to the satisfaction of the teacher preparation institution in the following areas, including multi-cultural aspects:
 - a. *Middle School Philosophy, Organization, and Curriculum;
 - b. Legal Foundations of Education;
 - c. Philosophical Foundations of Education; and
 - d. Sociological Foundations of Education; and

B. Middle School Concentration (Minimum requirement of thirty-one (31) semester hours):

- 1. **Middle School Methods** (Minimum requirement of ten (10) semester hours):
 - a. Methods of Teaching Reading (minimum of five (5) semester hours to include one (1) course in Techniques of Teaching Reading in the Content Fields);
 - b. *Middle Level Curriculum and Instruction;
 - c. Teaching of Writing; and
 - d. *Methods of Teaching Specialty Area; and
- 2. **Subject Area Requirements** (Minimum requirement of twenty-one (21) semester hours):

**Denotes minimum requirement of two (2) semester hours.*

Subject area certification in grades 5-9 will be granted upon the basis of a minimum of twenty-one (21) semester hours with appropriate distribution as determined by the teacher preparation institution and/or the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in one (1) of the following areas:

- a. Agricultural Education 5-9;
- b. Business Education 5-9;
- c. Industrial Technology 5-9;
- d. Language Arts 5-9;
- e. Mathematics 5-9;
- f. Science 5-9;
- g. Social Science 5-9; and
- h. Speech/Theatre 5-9; and

C. Clinical Experience (Minimum requirement of ten (10) semester hours):

A minimum of two (2) semester hours of field experience prior to student teaching and a minimum of eight (8) semester hours of student teaching in grades 5-9 is required. Teachers meeting requirements for Early Childhood, Elementary, or Secondary certification must complete a practicum with middle level students.

This practicum may be integrated within appropriate required courses.