

University of Delaware Middle School Methods Block

What is the middle school methods block?

The UD middle school methods block consists of **courses** that prepare our students to lesson plan and teach in a content-specific middle school classroom (ELA, math, science, or social studies). We call it a “**block**” because required courses are blocked together so that we can design a course schedule that will allow for consistent time in the field.

Required courses...

MS ELA	MS Math	MS Science	MS Social Studies
EDUC320: Reading and Writing in the Middle Grades EDUC428: Critical Reflection of Teacher Decision Making EDUC436: Differentiated Literacy Instruction	EDUC406: Teaching Math in Middle School EDUC428: Critical Reflection of Teacher Decision Making EDUC436: Differentiated Literacy Instruction	EDUC441: Teaching Science in Middle School EDUC667: Participatory Science for Teachers EDUC428: Critical Reflection of Teacher Decision Making EDUC436: Differentiated Literacy Instruction	EDUC348: Investigating Social Studies in Middle School Communities EDUC428: Critical Reflection of Teacher Decision Making EDUC436: Differentiated Literacy Instruction

In addition, many students will take EDUC440: Literacy Instruction for English Language Learners and/or literacy, math, science, and social studies content courses required to complete their degree requirements.

The MS content course and EDUC428 **include field assignments** designed to help our students learn how to design instruction, teach, and manage students in middle school classroom environments.

How often will your MS methods student be present in your classroom?

Our MS students will be expected to **spend full days** in your classroom two days a week. Based on their course schedule, they will likely choose a combination of two days from Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. In addition, there will be **two specific weeks** (*see calendar*) when their UD courses are cancelled so that they can spend five consecutive days in the field (M-F). These are when most of their teaching assignments take place. If a scheduled field day falls on a PD Day for you, our students are still expected to attend if possible. If your school is closed during a scheduled day in the field, our students will not have to make up the day.

What do our students need out of their placement?

- A classroom teacher who is willing to mentor our students and share their ideas, challenges, feedback, and of course, students.

- **Opportunities to be actively involved** in what happens in the classroom-this can involve working with individual students, teaching small groups, co-teaching lessons, grading work, assisting with duties, etc. We want you to put them to work!!
- Feedback, guidance, encouragement, and support ☺

What happens if I have questions or concerns or need to adjust their schedules, teaching assignments, etc.?

You and your UD students will be assigned a **FIELD INSTRUCTOR** from UD who will be available to guide you, respond to questions, and facilitate any adjustments that need to happen. Our field instructors will check in regularly, visit your classroom, and observe the UD students teach at least 2 of their lessons (conferencing with them afterwards). They share their contact information and will try their very best to support you and the UD students ☺

Is there a lot of paperwork or extra work for me to do?

No! For the most part, you are allowing UD students to assist you, work with your students, teach some lessons, while providing guidance and support. Our students will communicate with you when they have an assignment to do. You will be given lesson plans for any lessons they have to teach in advance, so you know what to expect. At the end of the experience, you will just have to complete a final evaluation for your methods student and submit it online. That is the only “paperwork” we will collect from you during the experience.

Why should I do this?

We need you! And...UD methods students can help to ease your load!

- Two days each week you will have an extra set of hands to assist with the daily grind. Put your UD student to work! They are eager to be involved.
- Students in your class who need extra support/guidance can receive it.
- Our students can breathe in new life and excitement.
- Children love having new faces in the classroom to work with them.
- Delaware teachers will receive 25 recertification hours for the renewal of a continuing license.
- You will have the pleasure of knowing that you made a huge impact in the professional development of a young teacher. Our students continually tell us that their field experiences are the most impactful to their learning and development.

