

Secondary Mathematics Education Program Guiding Principles

Students interested in becoming certified to teach secondary (grades 7-12) mathematics in Maine undertake an ambitious program of study at USM to prepare them for their professional work and lifelong learning.

There are several guiding principles for the secondary mathematics certification program at USM.

- 1. Strong mathematical content knowledge.**
Students who complete the Secondary Mathematics Program earn a bachelor's degree in mathematics.
- 2. Alignment with the College of Education and Human Development's [teaching outcomes](#).***
All program outcomes are necessary for a good teacher preparation program. In addition, the program is in line with the current State of Maine requirements.
- 3. Foundation coursework (Pre-Candidacy) taken during initial years at USM.**
Coursework in mathematics, education, and the core curriculum is typically taken in years 1, 2, and 3.5.
- 4. Completion of Praxis I exam.**
Successful performance on the Praxis I teacher certification examination. This requirement must be completed before the internship year. It is strongly recommended that students fulfill this requirement before applying for Candidacy status.
- 5. Promotion to Candidacy.**
For formal acceptance into the Secondary Mathematics Education program, a student must have successfully completed the Pre-Candidacy coursework below. Promotion to Candidacy typically happens before the beginning of senior year.
- 6. Completion of program-specific coursework.**
With the guidance of a faculty advisor, students complete the program-specific coursework outlined in the matrix below. This coursework includes field experiences and internships in years 4 and 4.5 of the program. During the final year of the program, which is formally called the *internship year*, the student teaching takes place.
- 7. Assessment.**
Each student will develop a Teaching Portfolio that addresses the College of Education and Human Development's teaching standards. The intern assessment process will mirror the College's assessment process for the undergraduate Teachers for Elementary and Middle Schools (TEAMS) pathway and graduate-level Extended Teacher Education Program (ETEP) pathway.
- 8. Praxis II.**
A passing score on Praxis II Mathematics examination is required by the State of Maine.

* Link found here: <http://www.usm.maine.edu/cehd/TED/linkedpdfdocuments/USMTeacherCertStds.pdf>

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