

POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM FOR INITIAL TEACHER LICENSE IN MIDDLE/SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION

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This program is designed for individuals seeking an Initial License in middle school education (5-8), secondary school education (8-12) or middle and secondary school education (5-12) in one of the following content areas only:

- Biology (8-12)
- Chemistry (8-12)
- Earth and Space Science (8-12)
- English (5-12)
- General Science (5-8)
- History/Social Science (5-12)
- Mathematics (5-8 and 8-12)
- Spanish (5-12)

Admissions Requirements

- One of the requirements for an Initial License is demonstrated subject matter knowledge. Thus, candidates for this program must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited school with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.7 in the chosen content area or demonstrate sufficient background in the content area.¹ A Provisional License in the desired content area is recommended. Passing scores on the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL) in the content area and on the Communication and Literacy Skills test are required.
- An undergraduate or graduate course in Adolescent Development is a pre-requisite for stage 3 of the program; or CLEP exam in Human Growth & Development (score of 50+).

¹ Candidates may be required to take additional courses in the content area. After reviewing the student's undergraduate transcript(s) and MTEL scores, the program coordinator will determine if the student must take additional content courses.

Coursework

Courses in this program prepare middle and secondary school teachers to demonstrate competency in the five professional standards for teachers as defined by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. These professional standards are: planning curriculum and instruction, delivering effective instruction, classroom management, promoting equity, and meeting professional responsibilities. Each course addresses specific standards, while the entire program prepares candidates for the challenges of responding to the needs and developmental characteristics of middle and secondary school students.

Some courses in this program have a field-based component, and there is a 45 hour pre-practicum course with a placement in an appropriate school setting. The program culminates with a practicum (student teaching) experience of 15-weeks, 300 clock hours in a middle or secondary school classroom under the supervision of a teacher and a university faculty member. The practicum/student teaching experience is a full-time, semester-long experience. The practicum may be completed at candidates' public school where they are employed as the practicing teacher of record. A seminar course is required concurrently with the teaching practicum to provide students the opportunity for reflection and shared experiences.

It is recommended that the courses in the program be taken in sequence. Stage 1 courses must be completed before Stage 2. All courses in Stage 1 and Stage 2 must be completed before beginning Stage 3.

Graduate application: www.worcester.edu/apply
MA Dept of Elementary and Secondary Education: www.doe.mass.edu
MTEL information: www.mtel.nesinc.com
Standards: www.worcester.edu/Education

Items Needed to Apply:

- Online application found at www.worcester.edu/apply
- Essay explaining reason for pursuing this certificate program
- Application fee
- Two letters of recommendation from professional or academic sources
- Official transcripts from ALL colleges and universities attended showing a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 2.7 in the chosen content area or sufficient background in the content area*
- Official transcript evaluation for any transcript from outside the United States
- An English language proficiency test if the student's academic background is not in English
- Evidence of passing scores on two MTEs: Communication & Literacy MTEL and one of the following content areas: Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, English, General Science, History, Mathematics, or Spanish
- An undergraduate or graduate course in Adolescent Development is a pre-requisite for stage 3 of the program; or a score of 50 or higher on the CLEP exam in Human Growth & Development

*Candidates may be required to take additional courses in the content area. After reviewing the student's undergraduate transcript(s) and MTEL scores, the program coordinator will determine if the student must take additional content courses.

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Stage 1		
ED-949	American Education: Contexts and Influences	6
ED-973	Instructional Design and Evaluation for Middle-Secondary School (course change will adjust this to 5-12) ¹	
Stage 2		
		7 - 10

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ED-909	RETELL: Best Practices for English Language Learners (Required only of students without current SEI endorsement) ²	
ES-925	Inclusive Settings: Learning Strategies and management Techniques (5-12)	
ES-905	Methods and Materials for Teaching Humanities	
or ES-906	Methods and Materials for Teaching Science and Math	
ES-921	Clinical Experience for Middle-Secondary Grades (5-12) (course change will adjust this to 5-12) ³	
Stage 3 (full-time experiential semester; courses taken concurrently) ⁴		8
ES-911	Teaching Practicum	
ES-908	Teaching Practicum Seminar (Middle and Secondary Grades)	
Total Credits		21-24

¹ 15 hours of classroom observation required

² 25 hours of classroom observation required; Course is not required of those with SEI endorsement

³ This is a 45-hour field placement in an appropriate local public school setting

⁴ Pre-requisites: Minimum Graduate GPA of 3.0 and a graduate or undergraduate child development course