

Elementary and Early Childhood Double-Degree Program

Program Description: The Elementary and Early Childhood Education Double-Degree concentration will allow candidates to earn both a BSE in Elementary Education (grades 1-6) or Early Childhood (grades PK-2) with initial teaching license and a M.Ed. in Elementary or Early Childhood Education leading to professional teaching license. The purpose of this program is to provide candidates with an accelerated path to licensure and earn a concentration in STEM Education **OR** Application of Technology in Elementary Classrooms.

Background: Currently, undergraduate elementary/early childhood teacher candidates complete a teacher preparation program to earn their initial license. According to the licensure requirements of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, teachers who earn their initial teacher license must then complete the requirements for their professional license within 5 years of employment as the teacher of record. The most common vehicle towards this end is a specialized M. Ed. program that leads to a professional license.

Value to the Candidates: The program will allow undergraduate teacher candidates to be eligible for early admission to the Graduate School allowing for a seamless transition from undergraduate to graduate. The program offers a convenient and accelerated path to complete the MA professional license requirements. Candidates who are eligible for financial aid may remain eligible since the undergraduate program for initial license is completed prior to the start of the graduate program for professional license. Undergraduate students will complete an abbreviated application to the Graduate School and the application fee will be waived for all candidates declaring one of these concentrations. The concentration may make our candidates more marketable when they seek to become first-year elementary classroom teachers. Graduate Transcripts will state “M.Ed in Elementary/Early Childhood Education with a Concentration in

Graduate housing: In the past, students living on campus as an undergraduate would be required to leave their dorms once they graduate. New fall 2019, as a graduate student, you have the option to live (or continue to live) on campus. For information, please contact Residence Live and Housing at 508-531-1277.

There are 2 concentrations from which to choose:

1. STEM Education.
 2. Application of Technology in Elementary Schools.
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Double-Degree Undergraduate Program Requirements

Essentially, the undergraduate part of the Double-Degree program is the exact same program as the Elementary/Early Childhood Education programs other than the one additional undergraduate course. One additional 3 credit undergraduate course would be required at the undergraduate level in your chosen area of concentration. Candidates would choose from a list of pre-approved concentration courses.

Undergraduate Concentration requirement(3 credits)

Graduate Program Requirements

Undergraduate candidates will complete all of their undergraduate requirements and graduate before working on any graduate level coursework.

- Masters leading to Professional License program will allow candidates to begin their program in either the summer or spring semesters only. Candidates who graduate in May will begin their graduate program that same summer. Candidates who graduate at other times will begin their graduate program in the next spring semester.
- At the end of the Masters program, all candidates must pass an oral Comprehensive Examination. The Comprehensives are discussed and scheduled in your capstone course.

The following courses

Schedule of when to take courses once in the Graduate program:
For a candidate who graduates in May:

- Summer (*)
 - EDMC 530 Teacher as a Researcher
 - ELED course with selected concentration focus
- Fall
 - EDMC 531 Standards- based Classroom: Curriculum
 - EDMC 532 Teacher as a Leader: Issues to Advocacy
 - EDMC 533 Standards-based Classroom: Instruction
 - ELED course with selected concentration focus
 - ELED course with selected concentration focus
 - ELED

Schedule of Course Offering:

As you plan out your program, we wanted you to have a schedule of when graduate concentration courses will be offered. Of course, things can change so check either InfoBear or contact your advisor.

Fall

ELED 508 Technology and STEM Education

ELED 521 Differentiating Instruction in the Elementary Classroom

Spring

ELED 567 Mathematics for Teachers PreK- Grade 6

ELED 560 Science and the World Around Us (topics course)

Summer

ELED 500 Digital Media in the Elementary Classroom

ELED 522 Science & Engineering Practices

Turning your Initial License into a Professional License

The Massachusetts Initial Teaching License is valid for five years of employment. Within five years of using your initial license, teachers must earn a Professional Teaching license. According to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, one of the steps to turn your Initial license into a Professional license is to earn an APPROPRIATE Masters degree combined with 3 years teaching experience. The DESE defines this degree as a Masters in Elementary/Early Childhood Education with at least 50% content courses. This is our Masters leading to Professional Licensure program.

Your First Step– Apply to the Graduate Admissions Office:

connection to your advisor. Call him/her and make an appointment. This must be done as soon as you begin taking graduate courses. After that meeting, your advisor will contact the Graduate School to release you for all