

How to become a licensed Elementary or Early Childhood teacher through the Graduate School

Upon graduating from college or, in some cases, after years in the workplace, some adults begin considering a career in education. BSU offers two graduate programs that lead to an initial license in Elementary or Early Childhood Education. The first is a “Post Bacc” licensure program. The second is a Master’s in Education leading to an Initial License. Even though both of these programs lead to an INITIAL teaching license, they have different requirements.

People interested in Early Childhood Education (PK-2) do not have a choice. The only program available is the Post Bacc Day-only program. We know that some of you who are interested in becoming an Early Childhood teacher may choose Elementary Education (grades 1-6) as an alternative. Grades 1 & 2 are included in both the elementary and early childhood license. Please note: The M.Ed. for Initial License for Elementary (1-6) is available in the evening.

The Post Bacc program for Initial License

The Post Bacc program is a NON-degree program and it is offered ONLY DURING THE DAY. Post Bacc candidates enroll full-time* and attend education classes (taught as a Block) with the undergraduate students. Candidates must be available 8 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. To enter this program, candidates must complete an application with the Graduate School. Basic requirement: Undergraduate GPA of at least 2.8 (if your undergrad GPA was lower than 2.8, there is a GPA remedy process); Passing scores on all of the MTELs (see the MTEL section below for more details) and 40 hours of classroom-based field work. The fieldwork requirement is completed as part of an “introductory” education course. Elementary candidates may enroll in the “introductory” course ELED 510 prior to admission. Early Childhood candidates may enroll in the intro course ECED230 AND SPED211 prior to admission.

*Although it is rare, a candidate maybe granted permission to attend the Day Block on a part-time basis. If you have extenuating circumstances, you will need to contact the Chair of the Department. Call the office at 508-531-1243.

The Master’s for Initial License

As stated in its name, candidates who complete this program receive a Master’s in Education that also makes them eligible for an INITIAL teaching license. This program is ONLY offered in the EVENING. Candidates may go full-time or part-time. Most courses are one night per week and begin at 4:45pm. Basic requirements: Undergraduate GPA of at least 2.8 (if your undergrad GPA was lower than 2.8, there is a GPA remedy process); Passing scores on BOTH the MTEL Communication & Literacy sections and one other MTEL prior to admission into this program (see MTEL section for details). Candidates may enroll in ELED510 Fce atLEram

their 40 hours fieldwork (completed as part of ELED510) to the Dean's Office after completing their 40 hours.

Post Bacc vs. Master's for Initial License

Which program should you enroll in? This is not an easy question to answer. They both lead to the SAME "initial" teaching license. However, there are advantages and disadvantages of both. That is why we offer both!

First of all, the Post Bacc program is full-time, day program. The candidate must be available Monday through Friday from 8 AM – 4:00 PM. This is ideal for parents with children in school and who want to be home in the evening. The program uses a cohort model. This means you will take all of your courses with the same group of candidates. This structure allows you to get to know your peers extremely well and to have the advantage of peer support. The primary disadvantage is that it isn't a "degree" program. This means that when you complete the program, you will not have a graduation ceremony. It also might mean that you start on the Bachelor's pay scale instead of the Master's pay scale – which could be as much as a \$3000 difference. Remember, every school district has its own pay scale and rules.

The Master's for Initial License program is only offered in the evening. Candidates may go full-time or part-time – even taking one course per semester. This means a candidate may be able to maintain a day job (such as a teacher's aide). The primary advantage of this program is that it leads to a Master's degree. This means that you will start on a Master's pay scale. Of course, this advantage only applies to those who work in a public school.

One other important note: Both programs lead to INITIAL licensure as a teacher. An INITIAL license is good for up to 5 years of EMPLOYMENT in a public school in Massachusetts. According to Massachusetts regulations, teachers need earn a PROFESSIONAL license. The typical way to do this is to earn an "appropriate" Master's degree that leads to professional license. This means that for the both Post Bacc and Master's for Initial Licensure, you will need to return to school (hopefully BSU) to pursue this specialized degree.

** The Post Bacc program is a non-degree program. You will not earn a degree. This may have implications for financial aid. The Masters leading to initial license program is a degree program. Any questions about financial aid should be directed to the financial aid office at 508 531 1341.

The MTEL (The Massachusetts Test of Educator Licensure)

To become a licensed teacher in Massachusetts, the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education require teacher candidates to pass three licensure tests. Some tests have two parts.

Elementary: 1. (a) Communication and (b) literacy
 2. General Curriculum (a) multi-subject and (b) math
 3. Foundations of Reading

Early Childhood: 1. (a) Communication and (b) literacy
 2. Early Childhood Content
 3. Foundations of Reading

Which MTEL should I take first?

Take the Communication & Literacy MTEL first. This is a test of can you read and write. The two remaining tests can be taken in any order.

TO REGISTER FOR MTELS:

Go onto the State's Department of Elementary and Early Childhood. The link for MTELS is: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mtel/>. From this web page, you can register for the MTELS. Registration is a two-step process. The first step is go online to register and provide your biographical information and pay the fee. Typically, 48 hours later, you will get an email saying you can register. It will allow you to select location, time and date. If you find that you do not like the time or date, shop around to another location as the dates and times are not universal.

Tests are computer-based and are offered through appointments. Be aware that it can take about 4 weeks to receive your test results!

Remember, the General Curriculum

Communication & Literacy AND the appropriate CONTENT test (Early Childhood for Early Childhood majors; General Curriculum, multi-subject and math sub-tests, for Elementary Education majors) AND the Foundations of Reading MTEL.

Sample Schedule:

Semester 1: ELED510

Semester 2: Block of professional courses 300 level courses

Semester 3: Student teaching and SEI course

NOTE: To register for courses for the first time, **BEFORE** you are accepted into a program, you will need to go online to: <https://www.bridgew.edu/grad-non-degree>
If you have any questions about the application process, you should contact the Grad Admissions office at 508-531 1300. Once you are admitted into the program, registration is simple and online.

There is no fee for applying as a non-degree student. There is a fee for the program application.

Early Childhood (PK – Grade 2) Post Bacc students should take ECED 230 Introduction to Early Childhood Education and SPED211 Early Childhood Learning Special

NOTE: To register for courses for the first time, BEFORE you are accepted into a program, you will need to go online to: <https://www.bridgew.edu/grad-non-degree>

NOTE: To apply to the program, go online to:
<https://www.bridgew.edu/admissions/graduate/apply>

If you have any questions about the application process, you should contact the Grad Admissions office at 508-531 1300. Once you are admitted into the program, registration is simple and online.

Graduate School application fee can be waived if you got your undergraduate degree at Bridgewater State University. Ask the Graduate Admissions office for information.

Program Advising

Once admitted to the program, you will receive a letter from the Graduate School. It will indicate who your advisor is. You MUST reach out to meet with your advisor at the start of the semester you are admitted into the program. At this meeting, you will complete required documentation and will go over your program of study. Although you can register for courses for the semester you are officially admitted, you MUST meet with your advisor. This is your connection to your advisor. Call him/her and make an appointment. This must be done as soon as you receive confirmation from the Grad School that you have been admitted. After that meeting, your advisor will contact the Graduate School to release you for future registration of courses (an electronic hold will be placed for any additional registration of courses until you have met with your advisor and released for registration).

Once you are admitted into the program and have met with your advisor, registration is easy and on-line.

Field Experiences in the program.

You will be going into a public school in Massachusetts at the appropriate grade level(s) to complete program requirements. Be aware: Almost all school systems require a criminal background check (CORO (p)2 (r)5 (o)-v2 (e)42 (i),mTjE Cn-2 ((m)-2 (i)-2c)4 (he)-4 (he)ac6-1 ((D

ECED 311 Science and Social Studies Inquiry for the Young
ECED 332 Reading Development for the Young Child
ECED 342 Language Arts for the Young Child

----- **The Master's for Initial License "Road Map"** -----

Take the First Course:

M.Ed. candidates should take ELED 510 Fundamentals of Elementary Education (for Elementary Education candidates; Grade 1-6).

Please note: This course also has a requirement of 40 hours of fieldwork in a classroom at the appropriate grade-level(s). Please keep in mind that BSU requires

provide your biographical information and pay the fee. Typically, 48 hours later, you will get an email saying you can register. It will allow you to select location, time and date. If you find that you do not like the time or date, shop around to another location as the dates and times are not universal.

Tests are computer-based and are offered through appointments. Be aware that it can take about 4 weeks to receive your test results!

Remember, the General Curriculum (multi-subject and math subtests) and the Early Childhood MTEs are CONTENT tests.

multi-subject subtest. ELED240 is offered as an on-line course in the fall and spring only. Many students have found these courses to expose them to the content needed to pass the MTELS.

To take the first course in the program, you do NOT need to pass any MTELS. It would be best if you begin taking these tests once you decide you want to become a teacher. To take any courses beyond the first introductory course, you will need to be admitted into the program. One requirement is that you pass at least two of the three MTELS (tests that have two parts must have both parts passed to count as one of the two MTELS needed for admission).

appointment. This must be done as soon as you receive confirmation from the Grad School that you have been admitted. After that meeting, your advisor will contact the Graduate School to release you for future registration of courses (an electronic hold will be placed for any additional registration of courses until you have met with your advisor and released for registration).

Once you are admitted into the program and have met with your advisor, registration is easy and on-line.

Professional Education

Once you are admitted, you may enroll in any of the Professional Education courses (see list below). You may enroll part-time or full-time. However, we do discourage enrolling full-time if you also have a full-time job or if you have not passed all required MTEls yet. You do not need an advisor's signature or permission to register. *Important note: Most professional Education licensing classes are not offered during the summer. Speak to your Graduate Advisor regarding the schedule of courses.

Masters for Initial is an evening program with the exception of the student teaching experience.

Elementary Education candidates must take the following courses:

This one course can be taken before being admitted into the program/MCID 6 BDC /TTD 6 dld id ldTD(T)1

Applications to student teach are available at <https://my.bridgew.edu/departments/ELCE/SitePages/Home.aspx> (note: you will need to log onto this page using your BSU user name and password).

The applications are due **early** in the semester (usually within the few weeks of the semester prior to student teaching).

Elementary Education candidates will be placed in grades 1-6. The course is ELED 592 and the experience is for a full semester.

It is important to note that the College of Education determines your student-teaching placement. We have contracts with specific school districts to provide these services. These sites are geographically located throughout southeastern Massachusetts. Please **DO NOT** contact a school regarding a student-teaching placement. The goal is to place you within a 45 minutes travel time radius of your home location (the location of where you will be living during student teaching). We have partner school systems where we place our teaching candidates. We, on occasion, may make special student teaching arrangements for a candidate who is employed as a teacher's aide in a local school district. In these circumstances, you must meet with the Chair of the Department (contact the Elementary Ed office at 508-531-1243) to discuss your situation. Local school districts must agree to various conditions for you to be placed in that district.

Please be aware that just about all school districts will also require a CORI (criminal background) check. If you think this might present a problem, you should speak with your advisor.

If you are currently hired as the teacher of record for a public elementary school in Massachusetts, you can request placement at your school and will have an Employment-Based Practicum. For more information about this, please speak with your advisor for details and restrictions.

NOTE ABOUT PACE OF TAKING COURSES

The Masters leading to initial license program is set up so that you can go to school either full time or part time. It can be completed in as quick as 3 semesters or you can go at a slower pace. You can complete as fast as 3 semesters **ONLY** if you have passed all MTEs passed before being admitted into the program. Your program would look like this:

Semester 1

ELED510 (can take prior to being admitted)

Semester 2

ELED 511 - Theory and Practice in Teaching Reading

ELED 513 - Mathematical Applications for the Classroom

ELED 515 - Differentiating Instruction: Creating Inclusive Classrooms

515 is offered only fall and summer semesters only

ELED 517 – Exemplary Practice in Science Classrooms

ELED 519 – Theory and Practice in Teaching Language Arts and Social Studies

Semester 3

ELED527 – Graduate SEI Endorsement for Teachers **

ELED592 - Student teaching

If you wish to go at a slower pace or if you passed only two of the three required MTELEs before being admitted into the program, the fastest you should go is 4 semesters (of course you can go slower, even one course per semester if you want). You will need to put some energy into passing your final MTEL in addition to some courses. Your program **could** look like this.

Semester 1

ELED510 – Fundamentals of Elementary Education

Semester 2

Work on passing final MTEL

ELED 513 - Mathematical Applications for the Classroom

ELED 517 – Exemplary Practice in Science Classrooms

ELED 519 – Theory and Practice in Teaching Language Arts and Social Studies

Semester 3

ELED 511 - Theory and Practice in Teaching Reading

ELED 515 - Differentiating Instruction: Creating Inclusive Classrooms

Note: 515 is offered only fall and summer semesters only

ELED 527 – Graduate SEI Endorsement for Teachers **

Semester 4

Student teaching

The virtue of this pace is that you will not have to take the SEI while also student teaching. Of course, you can also go at a slower pace to meet your needs.

** When planning out your course selections, please note that ELED527 has prerequisites of ELED513 & ELED517. So you will need to take the math and science courses prior to taking the ELED527 SEI course.

Schedule of course offerings:

Below is a sample of when courses are offered. Our intention is to provide this information so you can plan out your schedule. Of course, things can always change so be sure to check course dates and times online for the most up-to-date information.

Monday	4:45 – 7:25	ELED519
Tuesday	4:45 – 7:25	ELED513
Wednesday	4:45 – 7:25	ELED517
	4:45 – 7:25	ELED527 (note: SEI has math and science as pre-req) (SEI will be taken after math and science and can be taken before or during student teaching)
Thursday	4:00 – 6:40	ELED515
	6:55 – 9:35	ELED511
	4:45 – 7:25	ELED510

Monday	4:45 – 7:25	ELED519
Tuesday	4:45 – 7:25	ELED513
Wednesday	4:45 – 7:25	ELED517
	4:45 – 7:25	ELED527 (note: SEI has math and science as pre-req) (SEI will be taken after math and science and can be taken before or during student teaching)
Thursday	4:45 – 7:25	ELED511
	4:45 – 7:25	ELED510

ELED515 (only program course offered summers)

If you have any questions about either program, please feel free to contact the Graduate Coordinator:

Dr Steven Greenberg

sgreenberg@bridgew.edu

508-531-2329