Program Description
The Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, through the Bilingual/ESL/Multicultural (BEM) Program offers a Master’s Degree in Education (M.Ed.) or an Education Specialist degree (Ed.S.) and preparation for English as a Second Language (ESL) Licensure (grades PreK-6 or 5-12). This program prepares educators to explore more equitable and effective ways of working with English as a Second Language learners in a variety of contexts, including content/general education classes, sheltered-ESL classes, pullout classes, and bilingual programs.

Our program has been reviewed by and meets the professional standards outlined by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Educators (NCATE) and the Internation Organization of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL). Our program has been designated as an Advanced Practitioner Program designed for individuals with previous teaching experiences (e.g., 1-3 years of formal and/or informal teaching experience).

A Massachusetts License to teach ESL is completed as part of the M.Ed. program, but may also be taken through the Ed.S. Program. Although licensure courses are open to undergraduate and non-degree students, individuals must be accepted into the licensure track as an official candidate. This process is initiated through consultation with one’s advisor after acceptance to the M.Ed program and after a meeting with the ESL Licensure Advisor in the BEM program to ensure prerequisites for the licensure track have been met.

Who May Apply
The BEM Concentration is interested in applicants who are committed to social justice and have the experiences and skills required to create affirming and academically challenging learning environments for their future students. Central to the goals of the BEM Concentration is the recruitment of students with diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Admission Process and Criteria
M.Ed. and Ed.S. applicants to the ESL Licensure track must have a strong academic record and personal statement that reflects the following:

- A Bachelors of Arts, Science, or interdisciplinary major
- A minimum of 3 credits in linguistics with a focus on English or completing EDUC 670 while in the program
- A minimum of 6 credits of college level study in a language other than English
- A minimum of 3 credits in child or adolescent development or educational psychology
- A 2.75 undergraduate GPA
- A minimum TOEFL score of 550 or equivalent computerized score (this applies to international students only)
- Teaching experience in formal and or informal contexts (1-3 years beyond informal tutoring)
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with culturally and linguistically diverse students
- Evidence of a commitment to social justice and equity in education

If interested, M.Ed. and Ed.S. applicants must submit the following to the Graduate School:

- A Graduate School Application Form
- Two letters of recommendation that speak to the applicant’s teaching experiences and abilities
- Two copies of an official transcript
- A personal statement and resume
- An application fee

Graduate School Applications and further instructions can be obtained by consulting the Graduate Admissions homepage: http://www.umass.edu/umhome/admissions/index.php

Program of Study
The course of study for initial licensure in ESL consists of 27-30 credits of required coursework. These credits include field experiences, a semester-long practicum, and submission of course papers/assessments to an online system that allows the College of Education to track candidates’ progress toward meeting Massachusetts, TESOL, and NCATE standards. This system is called TK20. Anyone admitted to the BEM Program is required to purchase TK20. In addition, candidates must pass the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure (MTEL) prior to their official entrance into the ESL Licensure Track. This process is initiated through consultation with one’s advisor after acceptance to the M.Ed program and after a meeting with the ESL Licensure Advisor in the BEM program to ensure prerequisites for the licensure track have been met.

However, candidates do not need these scores at the time of applying to the M.Ed program. In other words, you may apply to the M.Ed Program, and if accepted, and you wish to pursue an ESL license, you must pass both state exams (e.g., Communication and Literacy and ESL Subject Matter exams). Upon satisfactory completion of all licensure requirements, candidates are recommended to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for licensure.

The course of study for the M.Ed. consists of 33 credits and a Master’s Leadership Project and/or a Research Project. Ed.S. students must complete a minimum of 30 credits. The BEM program offers the following courses at various times throughout a four-semester cycle. To decide which courses to
take, all students must meet with their assigned advisors each semester.

EDUC 500L  Student Teaching ESL (3-6 credits)
EDUC 692L  Workshop in LLC Project Development (3)
EDUC 533  Theories & Methods for Sheltered Instruction in ELL (3)
EDUC 611  Teaching, Assessment & Evaluation in Bilingual & ESL Education (3)
EDUC 616  Principles of Second Language Learning & Teaching (3)
EDUC 677  Foundations of Second Language Learning & Teaching (3)
EDUC 681  Teaching Reading and Writing for Content and Language Learning (3)
EDUC 615S  Language & Literacy Policy (3)
EDUC 687  Language Development & Literacy (3)

*Plus elective(s) to total 33 credits.

Licensure Advising
Upon admission to the BEM Program, students are assigned a faculty advisor. Faculty advisors meet with students regularly to plan. In addition, a licensure advisor assists licensure students with the licensure process. For more information on ESL licensure, please contact:

LLC Licensure Office:
205 Furcolo Hall
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
Telephone: (413) 545-3675
E-mail: llclicensure@gmail.com

For more information on the M.Ed/Ed.S. degrees, contact:
Marie Christine Polizzi
202 Furcolo Hall
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
mpolizzi@educ.umass.edu

Career Opportunities & Job Placement
Educators with expertise in working with culturally and linguistically diverse settings are in great demand in Massachusetts, throughout the United States, and globally. To connect students with the array of job opportunities available to them, the BEM Program maintains an electronic list through which we announce positions as they become available. Students are encouraged to join professional organizations such as the Massachusetts Association of Bilingual Education (MABE), the Massachusetts Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (MATSOL), and the Massachusetts chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education (MANAME) which also provide information regarding career opportunities.

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