Brief Program Description
This program prepares undergraduate and graduate students to teach foreign languages at the middle and high school levels. The end result of the course of study is an Initial License to teach grades 5-12.

Who May Apply
There are three main categories of students who generally apply to this program; they include Undergraduates, Post-Baccalaureate students who seek only teacher licensure, and graduate students, most often those enrolled in the Master of Arts in Teaching program. At this particular time, this program has been established for students of Chinese, French, Italian, and Spanish although, in time, other languages may wish to participate in this program as well.

Getting Started
Students interested in teaching Chinese, French, Italian or Spanish may contact their department of interest in Herter Hall (see reverse side of this sheet) or may go directly to the Educator Information Office in the College of Education in W120A Furcolo Hall. Most students interested in this program have spent a semester or an academic year in an overseas setting where the target language is spoken. Residence abroad contributes a great deal to the candidate’s fluency. Although undergraduates are usually majors in the language they wish to teach, occasionally students in other fields apply to the program because of their extensive background in a particular language, literature and culture. Undergraduates must have passed the Communication & Literacy Skills portion of the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure (MTEL) and in the subject matter test in order to qualify for this program and must have a 3.0 grade point average on a four-point scale.

Admission Process and Criteria
Those interested in applying to the program of foreign language teacher training may pick up applications at the Educator Information Office in W120A Furcolo Hall in the College of Education. Completed application forms are due in the Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies office, 130B Furcolo Hall, by March 1. Acceptance to the program is based on the following criteria: personal statement, grade point average, letters of recommendation and results on the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure.

Program of Study
Undergraduates can complete the program within a four-year period, but, more often than not, take an extra semester in order to do so. They often graduate and then complete their student teaching through the Division of Continuing Education.

Post-Baccalaureate students are those who have completed their bachelor’s degree and who wish to teach as soon as possible, normally within the period of one year. They generally complete their course work and a pre-practicum field experience during the first semester and student teach during the second. One normally completes this program either through the Division of Continuing Education or as a non-degree graduate student.

Graduate candidates apply to the Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures (LLC) This department admits applicants to the Chinese M.A., French MAT, Italian MAT or Spanish MAT programs. The Department of LLC offers teaching assistantships if they are available. Those receiving an assistantship pay no tuition and earn approximately $13,000 per year in return for which they teach three classes per year – generally one in the first semester and two in the following. The MAT programs entail work in the language, literature and culture of the major field and in the area of professional education. They require up to 46 semester hours including course work and practica and generally take 2-3 years to complete. MAT students do not need to apply to the STEP program for admission. Those who are accepted as graduate students are automatically enrolled in the STEP program. Once they have been accepted, they must complete the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure in Communication and Literacy and in their teaching language during their first semester in residence.

All students need to present strength in their teaching language. They are expected to satisfy standards relating to the language, literature and culture of their field of study. This is generally done by completing courses in their foreign language major and by studying abroad. Students must also have taken courses in either linguistics or language acquisition.

Students in all three categories mentioned above must complete The Work of Middle and High School Teachers, Educational Psychology, Social Issues, Tutoring in the Schools, and Methods of Teaching.
In our experience, the best indication of success in language teaching is the student’s performance in the foreign language methods class and in the pre-practicum experience. Successful completion of these, as well as in the various courses in the program, allows students to embark on the student teaching experience. This is certainly the best and most predictive evidence of success as language teacher.

**Advising**
Students receive initial advice from the Educator Information Office in W120A Furcolo or from the Director of Foreign Language Teacher Training at Herter Hall. The foreign language adviser becomes very familiar with the teaching candidates in the methods course and is in a good position to recommend the student for student teaching and suggest various schools for consideration. Students also learn of practicum opportunities in the Education 524 course since they visit schools, observe classes and make professional contacts as part of their educational program.

**Career Opportunities & Job Placement**
The University facility that helps students find employment upon graduation is Career Services. Students complete an information packet and maintain various documents and letters of recommendation in a file that is sent free of charge to prospective employers requesting them. In past years, this University also has organized a job fair that has brought prospective employers and teacher candidates together for interviews. Many offers have been made as a result of this highly successful fair.

**For more information, please contact:**

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