Program Description
The Secondary Teacher Education Program (STEP) offers a number of different licensure pathways for those individuals interested in teaching at the middle or high school level. Licenses are offered in the areas of English, History, Mathematics, Science, and Modern Foreign Languages. The STEP program represents a collaborative effort among College of Education and Arts and Sciences faculty, public school teachers and administrators, and the students of the program. We emphasize a strong background in subject matter, an interest in teaching all students, and thoughtfulness about the social context of education.

Who May Apply
Our STEP pathways are open to:
1. Undergraduates from UMass Amherst or the Five-College Collaborative;
2. Candidates who hold a B.A. or B.S. and want to pursue initial licensure and a Master’s degree;
3. Candidates who hold a B.A. or B.S. from an accredited university or college who are seeking initial licensure in math or the sciences, but not a degree; or
4. Graduate students enrolled in other academic programs who are seeking initial licensure.

Getting Started
Individuals seeking admission to any of the STEP pathways should prepare themselves by:
1. Developing a strong background in the content area of interest. This is most often done by majoring in or having a degree in the subject one wishes to teach.
2. Demonstrating a commitment to learning.
3. Engaging in work or related educational experiences with middle and high school age youth.
4. Taking courses, engaging in extracurricular activities, volunteer work, paid employment, and scholarly or creative work which demonstrates an interest in and respect for diversity and willingness to work for an equitable society.
5. Participating in positions of leadership, and taking initiative and responsibility for processes or outcomes.
6. Clearly defining goals for entering the teaching profession.
7. Passing the Communication and Literacy Skills portion of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL). This is recommended for all STEP candidates and is required for students wishing to enter the University to Schools for Undergraduates pathway.

STEP Pathways
STEP offers several different pathways, all of which lead to initial licensure at the middle or high school level, and some of which also lead to a Master’s degree in Education.

University to Schools for Undergraduates allows for undergraduate students to work toward initial licensure as they work to complete their Bachelor’s degree. With careful planning, students in this pathway have the opportunity to graduate in four years with both their initial license and Bachelor’s degree.

University to Schools for Graduates offers a Master’s degree in Education along with initial licensure. This pathway, which generally takes two to three years to complete, involves on-campus coursework, pre-student teaching experience in schools, and student teaching at the middle or high school level for one semester. University to Schools also offers the opportunity to take additional graduate-level subject matter coursework as well as access to all University resources.

The Post-BA Pathway offers initial licensure to experienced, non-traditional students who already have a Bachelor’s and/or graduate degree. This non-degree pathway generally takes one to two years to complete and is available for individuals seeking licensure in English, history, math, or the sciences.

The Cross-campus Pathway provides a way for current UMass graduate students enrolled in other programs to earn initial licensure only.

180 Days in Springfield is a one-year immersion pathway leading to initial licensure and a Master’s degree in Education. 180 Days focuses on urban education; students in the program have experiences at four schools in Springfield, Massachusetts: Central High School, Chestnut Accelerated Middle School, Duggan Middle School, and the Springfield Expeditionary Learning School. 180 Days students work in an energetic and diverse school environment while developing Legacy Projects outside of the school day.

Bridges to the Future is a one-year immersion pathway leading to initial licensure and a Master’s degree in Education. Bridges has an emphasis on rural education and Community Service Learning; students in the program have practicum experiences located in Greenfield, Orange, and Turners Falls.
Applying to STEP
The application process for each STEP pathway is slightly different. If you are considering applying to any of the STEP pathways, or if you would simply like more information, please schedule an advising appointment with an advisor in the Educator Information Office (413-545-2002 or eio@educ.umass.edu).

Program of Study
Like the application process, the program of study for each STEP pathway is somewhat different. There are, however, three general steps to earning initial licensure in any of the pathways:

University to Schools

- **Subject Matter Requirements**
  Generally fulfilled by obtaining a Bachelor’s and/or graduate degree in the subject one wishes to teach.

- **Foundational Coursework**
  - Educ 524: Work of the Middle & High School Teacher
  - Educ/Psych 305: Educational Psychology OR Educ 571: Psychology in the Classroom
  - Educ 497I/597I: Tutoring in Schools OR Alternative courses

- **Clinical Year Coursework**
  - Principles and Methods Seminar (in subject area)
  - Advanced Methods Course (in subject area)
  - Educ 503: Sheltered English Immersion
  - Educ 592S: Microteaching Lab
  - Educ 500S: Student Teaching (Grades 8-12) OR
  - Educ 500M: Student Teaching (Grades 5-8)
  - Educ 510: Teacher in the Classroom

Bridges to the Future | 180 Days in Springfield

(One Year Immersion Pathways)

- **Subject Matter Requirements**
  Generally fulfilled by obtaining a Bachelor's and/or graduate degree in the subject one wishes to teach.

- **Fall Semester**
  - Educ 715: Secondary School Curriculum
  - Educ 503: Sheltered English Immersion
  - Educ 592S: Pre-practicum in Education
  - Principles & Methods Seminar (subject area)
  - Educ 500S: Student Teaching (Grades 8-12) OR
  - Educ 500M: Student Teaching (Grades 5-8)
  - Educ 510: Teacher in the Middle & High School Classroom

Spring Semester
- Advanced Methods Course (subject area)
- Educ 693A: Adolescent Growth & Development
- Educ 615G: Integrating Technology with Instruction
- Educ 696W: Clinical Teacher Seminar
- Educ 615TT: Education in Context (Bridges)
- Educ 657: Intro to Urban Education (180 Days)
- Educ 698: Practicum

Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL): The MTEL is required for licensure by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The test has two parts: the Communication and Literacy Skills (C&LS) test and the Subject area test(s). The University’s policy is that:

- Undergraduates must achieve a passing score on the C&LS test as a pre-requisite for admission.
- Post-baccalaureate and graduate students must achieve a passing score on the C&LS test in their first semester of study.
- All students must pass the Subject test(s) (if one has been developed for that licensure field) before enrolling in the practicum.

Licensure Application Process: The Educator Licensure Office (ELO) in the College of Education coordinates the licensure application process for all University Educator Preparation program students who have completed all licensing requirements. The ELO provides information to guide students in using the Electronic Licensure and Recruitment system (ELAR), a system in which students apply for educator licenses online. The ELAR system requires a student to apply for his/her license online (including the payment of license fees) and send an official copy of his/her transcript to the ELO in Room W144 Furcolo Hall (being sure that the transcript includes the “Institutional Recommendation for Educator Licensure”). After individuals have applied online, the ELO endorses/recommends candidates for licensure via ELAR. The University Licensure Officer also assists students in completing applications for licensure in other states, as necessary.

Career and Job Search Assistance: The College of Education, in collaboration with Career Services, sponsors a Job Fair for prospective educators. The Job Fair draws school districts from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire. In addition, Career Services provides information and registration for the Massachusetts Educational Recruiting Consortium (MERC), a recruitment fair attended by school districts from across the nation.

The University of Massachusetts Amherst prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, gender, sexual preference, age, marital status, national origin, mental or physical handicap, political belief or affiliation, membership or non-membership in any organization, or veteran status, in any aspect of the admission or treatment of students or in employment.

Career Opportunities & Job Placement: Superintendents and principals in school districts across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts find STEP graduates to be well prepared and seek them to fill open positions. STEP graduates who seek teaching positions in states other than Massachusetts are usually required to take licensure tests required by the particular state, and in some cases, additional coursework.

Educator Information Office
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