



Educator Preparation Program Guide for Students
English as a Second Language (ESL)
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Brief Program Description

The Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, through the Language Literacy and Culture Practitioner Concentration, offers a Master's degree in Education (M.Ed.), a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) and preparation for English as a Second Language (ESL) Licensure (grades PreK-6 or 5-12) and Reading Specialist Licensure (grades PreK-12). These programs prepare educators to explore more equitable and effective ways of working with English as a Second Language learners in a variety of contexts, including inclusion in content/general education classes, sheltered-ESL classes, pullout classes, and bilingual programs.

Program of study for ESL licensure is usually done as part of the M.Ed. degree, but may also be taken through Post-Baccalaureate or the CAGS Program. Although many of the licensure courses are open to undergraduate and non-degree students, students must be accepted into a licensure program before they can enroll in the Practicum.

Who May Apply

The Language Literacy and Culture Practitioner 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 LLC Practitioner Concentration is the recruitment of students with diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Admission Process and Criteria

M.Ed. and CAGS applicants must have a strong academic record and personal statement that reflects the following:

- A Bachelors of Arts, Science or interdisciplinary major
- A 2.75 undergraduate GPA
- A minimum TOEFL score of 550 or equivalent computerized score (*this applies to international students only*)
- Evidence of being able to develop equitable and supportive relationships with diverse people
- Evidence of experiences in educational settings that are multicultural

Whether interested or not in licensure, M.Ed. and CAGS applicants should submit the following to the Graduate School:

- A Graduate School Application Form
- Two letters of recommendation
- Two copies of an official transcript
- A personal statement and resume
- An application fee

Graduate School Applications and further instructions can be obtained by writing to the Graduate Admissions Office, Goodell Building, University of Massachusetts, 530 Hicks Way, Amherst, MA 01003-9333, by phone at (413) 545-0722, or by consulting the Graduate Admissions homepage: <http://www.umass.edu/umhome/admissions/index.php>

Post-Baccalaureate applicants must meet the following requirements:

- A Bachelors of Arts, Science or interdisciplinary major
- A 2.75 undergraduate GPA*
- College Level Study of a Language other than English*
- A passing grade in Educational Psychology, Child Development, or Adolescent Development*
- A passing grade in an introductory course in Linguistics or equivalent*
- A passing grade on the Communication and Literacy Skills portion of the MTEL*

*Post-Baccalaureate applicants who do not have the prerequisite courses or a 2.75 GPA may be considered for provisional admission.

Applicants interested in pursuing ESL licensure through the Post-Baccalaureate program should submit the following documents to the Teacher Education & Curriculum Studies Office, 117 Furcolo Hall:

- A Post-Baccalaureate application form
- Two letters of recommendation
- An official transcript from all colleges attended
- A personal statement identifying the reasons for wanting to pursue a teaching career in ESL. (This statement should be no more than two pages in length.)
- Copies of the Communication & Literacy test scores

Applications with further instructions can be obtained by writing to the Educator Information Office, School of Education, 121 Furcolo Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA 01003, by phone at (413) 545-2002, or by consulting the Graduate Admissions homepage: <http://www.umass.edu/umhome/admissions/index.php>

Course of Study

The course of study for Initial licensure in ESL consists of 24 credits of **prescribed** course work, all of which can be counted towards the M.Ed. or CAGS degrees. This course of study includes field experiences, a semester-long practicum, and submission of a Field Experience Binder (FEB), demonstrating achievement of the state, and TESOL standards for teachers. Students must pass the ESL subject matter test before they may begin their student teaching. Upon

satisfactory completion of all requirements, students are recommended to the state Department of 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. CAGS students must complete a minimum of 30 credits. The LLC Practitioner Concentration offers post B.A., Master's and CAGS students the following courses at various times throughout a four-semester cycle. In order to decide which courses to take all students must meet with their assigned advisors:

- *EDUC 500L Student Teaching ESL
- *EDUC 533 Teaching ESL: Methods and Materials
- *EDUC 594A Managing Culturally Responsive Classrooms
- *EDUC 611 Testing, Assessment and Evaluation in Bilingual & ESL Education
- EDUC 615L Cross-cultural Communication
- EDUC 615S W/E: Language & Literacy Policy
- *EDUC 616 Principles of Second Language Learning & Teaching
- *EDUC 670 Language & Language Learning
- EDUC 677 Foundations of BEM Education
- EDUC 681 Teaching Reading & Writing on the Secondary Level
- *EDUC 684 Reading, Writing, Language & Thinking
- EDUC 687 Language Development & Literacy EDUC
- EDUC 692L Workshop in LLC Project Development
- *EDUC 697T Teaching Content for Language Development
- EDUC 697W Critical Innovations in World Language Curriculum Development
- EDUC 783 Diagnosing Reading Difficulties
- EDUC 784 Issues in Children's Literature
- EDUC 791Z Learning and teaching L2 Language

* Courses that count for both ESL Initial Licensure and Master's degree

Licensure Advising

Upon admission to the LLC Practitioner Concentration, students are assigned a faculty advisor. Faculty advisors meet with students regularly to plan and revise their course of study. 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 or CAGS degrees, contact:

Dr. Theresa Austin
207 Furcolo Hall
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
Telephone: (413) 545-0138
E-mail: taustin@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. In order to connect students with the array of job opportunities available to them, the LLC Practitioner Concentration 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.

LICENSURE INFORMATION AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL): The MTEL is required for licensure by the Department of 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 School 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 130 Furcolo Hall (being sure that the transcript includes the "Institutional Recommendation for Teacher Licensure"). After individuals have applied online, the ELO endorses/recommends candidates for licensure via ELAR. The University Licensure/Certification Officer also assists students in completing applications for licensure/certification in other states, as necessary.

Career and Job Search Assistance: The School 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.