Program Description
The Early Childhood Education Program is a concentration in the Education major leading to initial licensure in Early Childhood Education (PreK-2nd grade, students with and without disabilities) and/or Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care Lead Teacher Credential. The major is 44 credits, 14 of which are field-based in schools. Students complete field experiences in a variety of settings and grade levels.

Who May Apply
Admission to the Education major is competitive. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students apply to the major in the spring of their sophomore year. As a licensure program, all pre-service Education students must complete a secondary major in Liberal Arts or Social/Behavioral Sciences. Students are encouraged to pursue a focus in Early Childhood content within their secondary major. Please note that completion of the Education major requires extended field placements in PreK through 2nd grade classrooms. All schools and child care programs in Massachusetts require classroom personnel to pass a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check.

Prerequisites for Acceptance
- Passing scores on the Communication and Literacy Skills portion of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL).*
- Successful completion of or current enrollment in Math 113, Math 114, and HumDev 270 with a minimum grade of B.

*You must pass the Communication and Literacy Skills portion of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL) as a prerequisite for acceptance. NOTE: Although passing scores on the remaining two MTELs (Foundations of Reading and Early Childhood) are not required for admission, these two MTELs must be passed prior to entry into the clinical field experiences (senior year).

Admissions Process & Requirements
The application deadline is February 15 of the sophomore year. Application packets are available in the Educator Licensure Office (130 Furcolo Hall). Students must include in their application the following:

- Personal Statement that includes your future goals as well as your beliefs about teaching and learning.
- Hard copy of your passing scores on the Communication and Literacy Skills portion of the MTEL.
- Transcripts from all undergraduate institutions attended.

The Education major seeks candidates who demonstrate initiative, highly effective interpersonal and communication skills, passion for learning, and respect for diversity.

Course of Study
The Education major blends academic study with carefully supervised field experiences.

Junior Year Core
- Educ 393M Introduction to Early Childhood
- Educ 282A Pre-practicum in ECE I (1 credit course taken concurrently with Educ 393M)
- Educ 325 Introduction to Special Education
- Educ 461 Reading and Language Arts Methods
- Educ 482E Pre-practicum in Education (2-credit course taken concurrently with Educ 461)
- Educ 463 Principles of Teaching Mathematics in the Elementary School
- Educ 370 Writing for Education Majors (offered spring semester only)
- Educ 591SE Sheltered English Immersion

Junior Year Elective (choose one)
- Educ 497D Creative Arts for the Young Child
- Educ 351 Social Foundations of Education
- Educ 378 Survey of Children’s Literature
- Educ 462 Teaching Science in the Elementary School
- HumDev 300 Human Development in Infancy
- Educ 593F Classroom Assessment

Students seeking licensure in Early Childhood Education (PreK-2nd grade, students with and without disabilities) must pass the Early Childhood and Foundations of Reading MTEL prior to the fall semester of their senior year.
Senior Year Clinical Courses and Field Experiences

Fall Semester
Educ 490A Early Childhood Planning and Assessment
Educ 598A ECE Practicum I (students must register for this practicum with Educ 491D)
Educ 491D Seminar in Early Childhood Education (students must register for this seminar with Educ 598A)

Spring Semester
Educ 301 Young Children in Families and Schools
Educ 500Y or Educ 598B* Practicum II Grades 1st/2nd ECE Birth – 5 Years Practicum
Educ 491D Seminar in Early Childhood Education (students must register for this seminar with either Educ 598B or Educ 500Y)
Educ 494EI ECE Integrative Experience

*Students seeking MA DESE ECE licensure may not register for Educ 500Y until they have passed the ECE and Foundation of Reading MTEL exams. Students may opt to complete the Education major and obtain the DEEC Lead Teacher credential by taking the Educ 598 Birth – 5 Years Practicum instead of Educ 500Y.

Academic Advising
Students are not admitted into the Education major until their junior year. Prior to admission, students who plan to apply receive advising from the Educator Licensure Office (130 Furcolo Hall). Once accepted, an Early Childhood Education faculty member will serve as the academic advisor. Students will also continue to seek advising from their other major advisor.

Career Opportunities and Job Placement
Graduates have a very high rate of success in attaining teaching positions in public schools in Massachusetts as well as other states. 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. Graduates also successfully pursue teaching positions in private and public early childhood programs serving children birth to 8 years.

For more information, please contact:
Educator Licensure Office
130 Furcolo Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Amherst, MA 01003
413-545-2701
educba@educ.umass.edu

Licensure Information and Student Support Services

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 prerequisite 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 130 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.