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, Political Science/Political Philosophy, 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 are holders of 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 the program 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.

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 diverse environment and develop Legacy Projects outside of the school day.

Bridges to the Future is a one-year, rurally-based 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.

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

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

1. Subject Matter Requirements
   Fulfilled by obtaining a Bachelor's and/or graduate degree in the subject one wishes to teach.

2. Foundational Coursework
   - Educ 524: Work of the Middle & High School Teacher
   - Educ/Psych 305: Educational Psychology OR Educ 693I: Psychology in the Classroom
   - Educ 497I/597I: Tutoring in Schools OR Alternative courses
   - Educ 615J: Education and the Law

3. Clinical Year Coursework
   - Principles and Methods Seminar (in subject area)
   - Advanced Methods Course (in subject area)
   - Educ 591SE: Sheltered English Immersion
   - Educ 592S: On-site Pre-practicum
   - Educ 500S: Student Teaching
   - Educ 510: Teacher in the Classroom

Career Opportunities & Job Placement
Superintendents and principals in school districts across the 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.

For more information, please contact:

Educator Information Office
College of Education
121 Furcolo Hall
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
413-545-2002
eio@educ.umass.edu