

## THE FIELD

Knowledge is the key to success and to full participation in our democratic society. Educators help people acquire and use knowledge. They develop curricula, plan instructional programs, deliver instruction, and evaluate learning. Educators work in public and private schools, social service agencies, after school programs, nonprofit and community-based organizations, and business settings.

The College of Education is dedicated to enhancing the practice of education through research that informs both the preparation of educational professionals and the development of public policy that affects education. The college's approach is shaped by a fundamental commitment to social justice and diversity and by a belief in the essential importance of national and international perspectives in approaching the improvement of education.

***Education majors with a concentration in early childhood education, special education, and community education and social change are available, as is a minor in education. In addition, we offer an education exploratory track.***

The College of Education has a diverse and multifaceted mission, with many programs in undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and graduate education. It offers undergraduate courses of general interest and coordinates educator licensure programs.

## THE MAJOR

The College offers an undergraduate major in education with three possible concentrations: bachelor of arts (BA) in early childhood education (teaching), BA in special education (teaching), and a BA in community education and social change (non-teaching).

### NON-TEACHING: COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE (OPEN)

The community education and social change (CESC) concentration is intended for students interested in working in education settings that are not public school based. The purpose of this concentration is to prepare educational leaders with expertise in social justice, curriculum development, theories of learning, and models of change. Although intended primarily for students interested in non-formal education, the CESC concentration would also be of interest and meaningful to individuals considering a traditional teaching career. We encourage aspiring teachers to consider this concentration with the explicit understanding that it, alone, does not lead to a license to teach in any state. Students should seek advising from the Education Advising Center ([education@umass.edu](mailto:education@umass.edu)).

### TEACHING (RESTRICTED)

Both the early childhood education concentration (PK-2) and special education concentration (moderate disabilities in special education K-8 or 5-12) lead to initial licensure. Students in the special education concentration only must complete a secondary major in the liberal arts or sciences. Students apply for admission to the early childhood education or special education program during their sophomore year. Special education students will also need to work with the undergraduate departmental advisors of their secondary major to ensure that all secondary major requirements are met. Students should seek advising through the Education Advising Center ([education@umass.edu](mailto:education@umass.edu)).

## EDUCATOR LICENSURE PROGRAMS

Individuals who teach in the public schools must have a certificate or license granted by the state in which that individual is employed. Our educator licensure programs lead to teacher licensure in Massachusetts. Massachusetts regulations for the licensure of education personnel require that candidates for initial licensure complete a major in the liberal arts and sciences or an approved interdisciplinary major appropriate to the license sought, as well as complete an approved educator licensure program. Candidates must also complete a two-part examination in communication and literacy skills, and one or two examinations in the subject content of the license sought.

The College of Education offers approved educator licensure programs leading to an initial educator license in early childhood education, special education, elementary education, and in a variety of academic subject areas in secondary education.

## **SECONDARY EDUCATION: UNIVERSITY TO SCHOOLS**

The University to Schools (UTS) program seeks students who have a strong background in the subject area they plan to teach, a commitment to lifelong learning, and evidence of interest in and respect for middle and high school age youth. Students are able to work toward their undergraduate degrees in their chosen majors, and simultaneously work toward their initial license through the UTS pathway, potentially earning both in four years. Students pursuing this option must complete all coursework by the end of the fall semester of their senior year so that the spring semester is free for their practicum (student teaching).

## **EDUCATION EXPLORATORY TRACK**

The education exploratory track is for students interested in education as a career path in a variety of settings (e.g., formal, informal, or international). Students who are thinking of pursuing a career in teaching at the early childhood, English as a second language, elementary, special education, or secondary education level (i.e., mathematics, science, English, and history), or an advanced school professional career, such as reading specialist, school counseling, and school psychology, will benefit as well from the exploratory track in education. Students will be exposed to potential careers in education, learn about licensure requirements, and explore secondary majors that align with their career interests.

## **THE MINOR**

The minor in education is designed to provide a foundation for students who have an interest in education and schools. Completion of a minor in education does not lead to initial licensure in Massachusetts. The minor requires completion of six courses (no fewer than 18 credits). Advising is available at the Education Advising Center.

## **EDUCATION ADVISING CENTER**

The Education Advising Center provides advising and information for students who are interested in the education major or minor and for individuals interested in teaching and non-teaching programs at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. More information is available by emailing: [education@umass.edu](mailto:education@umass.edu).

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