

Education Licensure Requirements for Students Planning to Teach in MA Public Schools

Students planning to teach in Massachusetts public schools should be aware of the following information as they move forward in their education at Cape Cod Community College.

Education Licensure in Massachusetts is offered on four levels:*

- Early Childhood** (Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 2)
- Elementary Education** (Grade 1 through Grade 6)
- Middle School** (Grade 5 through Grade 8)
- High School** (Grade 8 through Grade 12)
- Special Education** (Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8 or Grade 5 through Grade 12)

* There are a few teaching areas (Art, Drama, Music, Special Education of students with severe disabilities, plus others) that do not follow these levels and may be researched at the Department of Education website, www.doe.mass.edu, or with the CCCC Transfer Advisor.

Students planning to begin their education at CCCC and then transfer to a bachelor's institution to complete a course of study leading to licensure to teach in Massachusetts public schools should choose their course of study at CCCC based on the following guidelines:

- Early Childhood** - A. S., Early Childhood Education Program - Transfer Compact (Students not wishing to become licensed to teach in the public schools, or who want to teach at the preschool level, may also choose the A.S. degree in Early Childhood Education.)
- Elementary Education** - A. A., Elementary Education Transfer Compact Concentration
- Middle or High School** - A. A., Education Concentration

Requirements to be accepted into a licensing program at a bachelor's institution:

- Entry into Education programs at the bachelor's level requires students have a minimum grade point average of not less than 2.75 (At their discretion, individual institutions may require a higher grade point average).
- All students are required to pass the Communication and Literacy Skills Test (CLST), one of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL). The CLST is usually taken before admission to an education program at the bachelor's institution. Students should plan to take this test sometime after the completion of English Composition II, and before entering the bachelor's institution, but it may also be taken earlier. The CLST may be taken after entering the bachelor's institution but students must receive a passing score before being admitted to an education program.
- Some bachelor's institutions require that students pass all the required MTEL tests before acceptance into an Education program.

Requirements to obtain initial licensure to teach:

- Students planning to teach Early Childhood, Elementary Education, or Special Education are required to double major in early childhood education or elementary education and a liberal arts and science major while in attendance at the bachelor's institution. The choices for the liberal arts and science major depend on the bachelor's institution students attend.
- Students planning to teach middle school or high school are required to major in their subject area and minor in middle or high school education while in attendance at the bachelor's institution.
- All students are required to pass an (MTEL) Academic subject matter test.
- Students seeking licensure in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, or Special Education must also pass the (MTEL) Foundations of Reading Test.

Teaching Licensure is administered by the Massachusetts Department of Education. Requirements for licensure are subject to change. Students should check the Department of Education's web site, www.doe.mass.edu, or call 1-781-338-6600, for the most current information.

Information about MTEL can be found at the Department of Education website, or by going directly to www.mtel.nesinc.com.

Students are also encouraged to visit the Transfer Office at Cape Cod Community College to find out more information, and/or explore the College catalog or web site of their intended transfer institution.