

Charting Your Path to Educator Licensure



Lesley
UNIVERSITY

Charting Your Path *to Educator Licensure*

What License Do You Need?

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MA ESE) Requirements to Obtain Each License

Lesley University Graduate Education Licensure Programs

Preliminary License (optional)

You need this license if you are hired or expect to be hired by a school system to teach in a critical need area and have no prior teaching license. You, the candidate, pursue this license on your own. Lesley does not endorse for the Preliminary License.

This license is valid for five years of teaching and is not renewable. You should start an approved program leading to Initial License while teaching under this license.

You must have...

- › B.A. or B.S. degree*
- › Successful completion of Massachusetts Tests for Educator License (MTELs)

Some licenses, such as Early Childhood, Elementary Education, or Moderate Disabilities, require additional coursework (at right)

Preliminary License Coursework

If you are pursuing a Preliminary License in Early Childhood, Elementary, Moderate Disabilities, or Severe Disabilities, you will need to take specialized coursework. Coursework taken for your preliminary license should be part of an approved Initial License program. Once you have your Preliminary License, you should start an approved program leading to an Initial License.

Initial License

You need this license to teach in a public school setting. An Initial License program strengthens your pedagogical and content area skills. Lesley endorses candidates who complete an approved Initial License program.

This license is valid for five years of teaching. A Professional License is required after teaching under the Initial License for five years. You may begin coursework toward your Professional License immediately while teaching under the Initial License.

Initial License is renewable one time only, through decision by MA ESE Commissioner; requires being employed 5 years under valid Initial License, presentation of evidence of sound moral character, and submittal of plan for how candidate will fulfill requirements for professional license.

You must have...

- › B.A. or B.S. degree*
- › Successful completion of Massachusetts Tests for Educator License (MTELs)
- › Completion of an approved program of study for an initial license

› Sheltered English Immersion Endorsement (SEI) is required for core academic teachers (www.doe.mass.edu/retell)

— or —

- › A Preliminary License, and be employed by a school district as teacher or apprentice, and will complete a district-approved program within five years

Master's Degree leading to Initial License

Lesley offers many Master of Education (M.Ed.) degrees leading to Initial Licensure in the areas of Early Childhood, Elementary, English as a Second Language (ESL), Middle School, High School, Instructional Technology, Moderate and Severe Disabilities, and Visual Art. We also offer Master's degrees leading to an Initial License for Reading Specialist, School Guidance, and School Adjustment Counseling.

Once you have your Initial License, you should begin the process leading to a Professional License.

Professional License

You need this license after teaching under an Initial License for five years as the teacher of record in a public school. A Professional License indicates deepened content knowledge. Lesley endorses candidates who complete an approved Professional License program.

This license is valid for five calendar years and is renewable every five years. You may begin coursework toward this license as soon as you obtain your Initial License. If you are applying for a Professional License, it must be at the same level and subject as your Initial License.

You must have...

- › B.A. or B.S. degree*
- › Initial License
- › Completion of three years of public or private school teaching experience under the Initial License, a one-year mentor induction plan (concurrent with year one), and 50 hours mentoring beyond the first year

If you don't have a Master's Degree:

- › Completion of an approved Master's program leading to Professional Licensure (at right)

If you have a Master's Degree:

- › Completion of 12 credits of graduate coursework (at right)

Master's Degree leading to Professional License

For the educator with a Bachelor's degree and an Initial License, Lesley offers Approved Master's programs leading to Professional Licensure. Programs include Early Childhood, Elementary, Visual Art, Middle School English, Science, and Mathematics.

— or —

12-Credit Post-Master's Option for Professional License

Prerequisite: Massachusetts Initial Teaching License and a Master's Degree

For those who already hold Master's degrees, 12 credits of graduate coursework in the subject matter knowledge of the Initial license can be used to meet part of the requirements for the Professional license in that same field. This is an individual option listed in the Massachusetts state regulations and not an approved program. Those interested in taking advantage of this option should consult with an Assistant Director of Academic Advising in the Graduate School of Education before enrolling in courses. Lesley does not endorse candidates for this option.

Once you have your Professional License, you will need to renew every 5 years.

Renewal of Your Professional License

Renew Professional License(s) every five calendar years. You, the candidate, apply for renewal on your own.

You must have...

- › Professional License
- › District-approved professional development plan that aligns your needs, the district's needs, and the area of your license, and that includes a plan for the necessary professional development points (PDP's)

License Renewal and Professional Development

To keep your license current, you must renew every five years after earning the professional license, through a variety of professional activities. For instance, one 3-credit graduate course, appropriate to the license, is 67.5 Professional Development Points (PDP) of a required 150 PDPs.

Earn at least 15 PDPs related to SEI or English as a Second Language and at least 15 PDPs related to training in strategies for effective schooling for students with disabilities and instruction of students with diverse learning styles.

**Bachelor's and Master's degrees must be from a regionally-accredited institution. Foreign coursework must be evaluated by a nationally-accredited agency. See: www.mass.gov/edu/government/departments-and-boards/ese/programs/educator-effectiveness/licensure/academic-prek-12/teacher/foreign-degree-and-credit-equivalency*

Special Opportunities

For those seeking Initial License Only (without Master's Degree), Lesley has programs in Special Education, Specialist in Reading, and Instructional Technology, English as a Second Language, and Elementary Education. To enter, you must already hold a bachelor's degree and an Initial Teaching License (except Elementary, which does not require an Initial license).

Licensure in Other States

All Lesley University programs identified as leading to licensure comply with current Massachusetts laws and regulations. In addition, Massachusetts signed the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement 2015-2020, which makes it possible for an educator to have their Massachusetts licenses recognized across the United States. Check individual state websites for specific requirements.

Adding Another Initial License and Moving an Existing Initial License to Professional

Completing an approved licensure program for Reading Specialist or Moderate Disabilities will enable candidates to add another initial license and use 12 of those credits to advance some Initial licenses to Professional.

Professional Development at Lesley Take advantage of Lesley's many institutes, conferences, continuing education, and professional development offerings. Visit: lesley.edu/centers

Massachusetts Educator License Preparation at Lesley University 2016–2017

To get started

Set up an ELAR (educator licensure and renewal account) at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to see MTEL scores, check whether transcripts were sent, check status of applications. The state will assign a unique identifier, MEPID (MA Personnel ID), which will be visible in ELAR. Please submit MEPID number to Lesley University through LOIS.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Undergraduate degree and an Initial Teacher License

- > Early Childhood (PreK-2)
- > Elementary (1-6)
- > Middle (5-8) English, General Science, History, Mathematics, Political Science/Political Philosophy
- > High School (8-12) English, History, Mathematics, Political Science/Political Philosophy
- > Moderate Disabilities (PreK-8)

Graduate School of Arts and Social Sciences

Master's degree, Initial License, License Only

- > School Adjustment Counselor (ALL)
- > School Guidance Counselor (PreK-8, 5-12)

Graduate School of Education

Master's, Dual Licenses, License Only, Initial and Professional

- > Early Childhood (PreK-2)
- > Elementary (1-6)
- > English as a Second Language (PreK-6; 5-12)
- > Instructional Technology (ALL)
- > Middle (5-8) English, General Science, History, Humanities, Mathematics, Math/Science, Political Science/Political Philosophy
- > High School (8-12) Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, English, History, Mathematics, Physics, Political Science/Political Philosophy
- > Moderate Disabilities (PreK-8, 5-12)
- > Reading Specialist (ALL)
- > Severe (ALL)
- > Visual Art (PreK-8, 5-12)

Endorsements

- > Sheltered English Immersion (earned only with initial Teacher license program)
- > Transition Specialist

» For useful Licensure Resources go to lesley.edu/licensure-resources

Lesley University Certification
Office for Educator Licensure:
lesley.edu/certification