Brandeis University Education Program
Undergraduate Teacher Education

Applying for Initial License
from Mass. Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

The Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education recommends that you create your licensure (ELAR) profile early in your teacher education career.

You can complete the process of applying online for a Massachusetts teaching license while you are student teaching or anytime after you have completed the Education Program.** The earlier in your student teaching semester you complete all steps the better.

Complete these steps early in your student teaching semester:
1. Follow the “User Registration” directions and click “Submit” as you complete each page.
2. You are applying for an INITIAL license in your subject area & grade level
   a. elementary 1-6, OR
   b. your secondary content English and grades 5-12, or visual arts (K-8 or 5-12)
   c. and you are completing an approved program.
3. Also apply for the SEI endorsement (Sheltered English Immersion) – path 1. No charge.
4. Print and save a copy of your payment receipt.
5. Email the Education Program confirming the date that you completed your application and paid the application fee.

Your license will be issued only after:

a. you graduate in May;
b. you have taken and passed required MTELs;
c. the Education Program verifies online, after graduation, that you are a “Program Completer;” and endorses you for SEI;
d. you have an official final transcript with an endorsement * (available after graduation);
e. the official, final, endorsed transcript is sent by the Education Program to the Mass. Department of Elementary & Secondary Education. We send transcripts in a batch so they are processed more speedily.**

DESE no longer issues hard copy licenses. You or a potential employer can verify your license by any of the steps listed at www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.aspx?id=6160

* An “endorsement” is added to your transcript by the Registrar per request of the Education Program. It says: This student has completed a State approved and NASDTEC recognized program for licensure in (license field, type & level) and is endorsed for initial licensure in this field.

The earlier you complete the online application and pay the fee, the sooner your application will be processed by DESE.

** If you choose to apply for licensure at a later date, you will need to request a copy of your transcript from the Registrar and send it directly to DESE. If you will be applying for licensure in another state using reciprocity, please familiarize yourself thoroughly with that state’s requirements.

See information below on Good Standing Letter.
**Good Standing Letter**

In March or April, when you have completed your online license application and have passed all MTELs, but have not yet completed student teaching or received your official license, you should request a letter of good standing from Prof. Levenson. This letter can accompany job applications, and it will let potential employers know that you will be eligible for your initial license as of the May graduation date.

/licensure/license_app_BA-BS_2017-18  

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