



## Initial Licensure Candidate Low GPA Recommendation

*This advising sheet has been prepared for candidates wishing to be admitted to a graduate degree Initial Licensure program or a post-baccalaureate initial teacher licensure program who have a cumulative undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of less than the required 2.8.*

Candidates must attain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a total of nine credits beyond the bachelor's degree in order to be considered for admission. The GPA in these nine credits will not be combined with the candidate's undergraduate GPA. The nine credits must consist of the following course selections:

### I. One three - credit "introduction to education" course:

Early Childhood Education	ECED 230 Basics of Early Childhood Education
Elementary Education	ELED 220 Principles of Teaching
Middle School Education (5-8)	EDHM 210 Introduction to Teaching
High School Education (9-12)	EDHM 210 Introduction to Teaching
	ELED 510 Fundamentals of Elementary Education (introduction course)
	ECED 510 Fundamentals of Early Childhood Ed. (introduction course)

### **Specialist Areas:**

Health, Family and Consumer Sciences (all)	EDHM 210 Introduction to Teaching
Music Education (all)	EDHM 210 Introduction to Teaching
Physical Education (Prek-8, 5-12)	PHED 205 Introduction to Teaching Physical Education (2 CR)
Visual Arts (Prek-8)	EDHM 210 Introduction to Teaching
Visual Arts (5-12)	EDHM 210 Introduction to Teaching

### II. Six credits of upper level (usually 300- 400 level) courses in the following specific arts or sciences areas:

English Literature  
History/Political Science/Geography  
Mathematics (100, 200, 300, or 400 level)  
Sciences (biology, chemistry, earth science, physics):(100, 200, 300 or 400 level)

Candidates seeking Initial Licensure in a specific subject area (e.g. history, biology, physical education, etc.) should make their course choices in consultation with the appropriate arts and sciences faculty education liaison or, for Physical Education and Health, faculty from the Department of Movement Arts, Health Promotion and Leisure Studies.

Please note the following additional restrictions:

- Candidates may not retake a course that they have taken in their past academic history to reestablish their GPA.
- Candidates must achieve a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA through the above nine credits in order to request consideration based on GPA.
- Candidates may not apply more than three credits of education coursework when requesting GPA reconsideration.

Once a candidate has reestablished a GPA based on the above recommendations, he/she must submit the applicable transcripts to the College of Graduate Studies. **Please note: Students may not enroll in education courses beyond the introductory level without being matriculated into a post - baccalaureate/graduate teacher preparation program through the College of Graduate Studies and the College of Education and Allied Studies.**

**Admission to a Professional Education Program  
Initial Licensure Programs**

1. Candidates must be matriculated into a post-baccalaureate/graduate teacher licensure program; contact the College of Graduate Studies for admissions information and application, 508.531.1300.
2. As part of the application to the post-baccalaureate/graduate licensure program submitted to the College of Graduate Studies, candidates must:
  - a. Provide proof of having attained a passing score on the Communication and Literacy Skills portion of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL)
  - b. Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.8 (through all previous undergraduate coursework); this minimum GPA must be maintained throughout the professional education program.
  - c. Candidates must interview, if required, with their individual education departments (Check with department.)
  - d. Provide three appropriate letters of recommendation
3. Candidates must submit evidence that they have completed a minimum of 40 contact hours (20 hours for secondary education and middle school) working with children or youth in schools or other agencies as part of an introduction to education course (ECED 230, ELED 220, EDHM 210, or PHED 205) to the Office of Professional Education (Burnell, Room 128).

**Admission to Student Teach  
All Initial Licensure Candidates**

Candidates must:

1. Satisfy all admission criteria for professional education programs (MTEL passing scores, English proficiency, prepractica hours, health records) and maintain continued good standing in the College of Education and Allied Studies
2. Have a 2.8 overall cumulative grade point average with a 2.8 grade point average in the Arts and Sciences major and the Education major, minor, or concentration required for teacher licensure
3. Submit evidence of having passed all required portions of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL), including the appropriate subject test and the Foundations of Reading test (for early childhood and elementary education candidates)
4. Have successfully completed all prerequisite courses and prepractica field experiences
5. Provide evidence of a negative TB test, valid through the end of the student teaching semester
6. Obtain departmental approval (via the signature of Chair or Graduate Coordinator on their student teaching application)
7. File their application with the Field Experience Office by February 1, if planning to student teach in the fall semester, and by September 30, if planning to student teach in the spring semester