

## Elementary and Early Childhood Double-Degree Program

Program Description: The Elementary and Early Childhood Education Double-Degree concentration will allow candidates to earn both a BSE in Elementary Education (grades 1-6) or Early Childhood (grades PK-2) with initial teaching license and a M.Ed. in Elementary or Early Childhood Education leading to professional teaching license. The purpose of this program is to provide candidates with an accelerated path to licensure and earn a concentration in STEM Education **OR** Application of Technology in Elementary Classrooms.

Background: Currently, undergraduate elementary/early childhood teacher candidates complete a teacher preparation program to earn their initial license. According to the licensure requirements of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, teachers who earn their initial teacher license must then complete the requirements for their professional license within 5 years of employment as the teacher of record. The most common vehicle towards this end is a specialized M. Ed. program that leads to a professional license.

Value to the Candidates: The program will allow undergraduate teacher candidates to be eligible for early admission to the Graduate School allowing for a seamless transition from undergraduate to graduate. The program offers a convenient and accelerated path to complete the MA professional license requirements. Candidates who are eligible for financial aid may remain eligible since the undergraduate program for initial license is completed prior to the start of the graduate program for professional license. Undergraduate students will complete an abbreviated application to the Graduate School and the application fee will be waived for all candidates declaring one of these concentrations. The concentration may make our candidates more marketable when they seek to become first-year elementary classroom teachers. Graduate Transcripts will state “M.Ed in Elementary/Early Childhood Education with a Concentration in .....

Graduate housing: In the past, students living on campus as an undergraduate would be required to leave their dorms once they graduate. New fall 2019, as a graduate student, you have the option to live (or continue to live) on campus. For information, please contact Residence Live and Housing at 508-531-1277.

### **There are 2 concentrations from which to choose:**

1. STEM Education.
  2. Application of Technology in Elementary Schools.
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## Double-Degree Undergraduate Program Requirements

**Essentially, the undergraduate part of the Double-Degree program is the exact same program as the Elementary/Early Childhood Education programs other than the one additional undergraduate course.** One additional 3 credit undergraduate course would be required at the undergraduate level in your chosen area of concentration. Candidates would choose from a list of pre-approved concentration courses.

### **Undergraduate Concentration requirements** (3 credits)

- For candidates in the STEM Education concentration, **choose one** course from the list:
  - NSCI 140: A Hands-On Approach to Environmental Education (offered Fall)
    - (on infobear, it can be found under “natural sciences”)
  - ELED 282 STEM Teaching & Learning in Elementary Schools (offered Spring)
- For candidates in the Application of Technology in the Elementary Classroom concentration, **choose this** course:
  - ELED 200 - Introduction to Computers in the Elementary Classroom
    - (offered fall and spring – online)

GPA Requirement: A minimum of 2.8 is required for acceptance into the professional education program, and it must be maintained throughout the program.

## **Double Degree Graduate Program Requirements**

### **Early Admission to the M.Ed. Program**

Students enrolled in the Double-Degree concentration will be eligible to apply for early admission to the College of Graduate Studies for early acceptance into the M.Ed. program, with no application fees. Graduate School early acceptance requires that the student:

- be a Bridgewater State University senior, and have declared in the Double-Degree program.
- be enrolled in the elementary “block” of professional courses (2<sup>nd</sup> to last semester of their undergraduate program) or enrolled in student teaching (last semester of the undergraduate program).
- Begin matriculating in graduate courses in the Masters leading to professional license for the semester immediately following their anticipated completion of the undergraduate degree (see sample timeline below).

Although students may be accepted into the graduate program during their senior year, they will be classified as an undergraduate student until all requirements of the Bachelor’s degree have been fulfilled and the Bachelor’s degree has been awarded. Under the early acceptance program, the student will be admitted and classified as graduate students in the semester immediately following conferral of the Bachelor’s degree.

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## **Graduate Program Requirements**

Undergraduate candidates will complete all of their undergraduate requirements and graduate before working on any graduate level coursework.

- Masters leading to Professional License program will allow candidates to begin their program in either the summer or spring semesters only. Candidates who graduate in May will begin their graduate program that same summer. Candidates who graduate at other times will begin their graduate program in the next spring semester.
- At the end of the Masters program, all candidates must pass an oral Comprehensive Examination. The Comprehensives are discussed and scheduled in your capstone course.

## **There are 2 strands of Graduate programs from which to choose:**

- 1 M.Ed in Elementary (or Early Childhood) level Leading to Professional License with a concentration in STEM Education.
- 2 M.Ed in Elementary (or Early Childhood) level Leading to Professional License with a concentration in the Application of Technology in Elementary Schools.

There are 5 content electives for each of the concentrations. 4 of the 5 content electives \*\* will be in your chosen area of concentration.

- For Candidates selecting the **Application of Technology in Elementary Classroom concentration**, the list of courses that would satisfy concentration requirements:
  - ELED 567 Mathematics for Teachers PreK - Grade 6
  - ELED 521 Differentiated Instruction in the Elementary Classroom
  - ELED 560 Science and World Around Us (topics course)
  - ELED 500 Digital Media in Elementary Schools
  - ELED 508 Technology and STEM Education
- For Candidates selecting the **STEM Education concentration**, the list of courses that would satisfy concentration requirements:
  - ELED 522 Science and Engineering Practices
  - ELED 567 Mathematics for Teachers PreK - Grade 6
  - ELED 560 Science and World Around Us (topics course)
  - ELED 508 Technology and STEM Education
  - PHYS 597 Special Topics in Elementary School Science (topics course)

The following courses are program requirements and may be taken in any order, except for the capstone course ELED 554 for elementary OR ECED575 for early childhood, which must be taken in the last semester of your program. The capstone course can be taken either alone or along with up to two program electives.

- EDMC 530 The Teacher as Researcher
- EDMC 531 Standards-based Classroom: Curriculum
- EDMC 532 Teacher as Leader: Issues to Advocacy
- EDMC 533 Standards-based Classroom: Instruction/Assessment for Diverse Learners
  - *ELED 554 Graduate Seminar in Elementary Education CAPSTONE COURSE\** **OR**
  - *ECED575 Graduate Seminar in Early Childhood Education CAPSTONE COURSE\**

Notes:

\*\*Content electives must be selected from a pre-approved list of courses for the chosen concentration or with pre-approval from program advisor.

\*The Capstone course is offered in the fall and spring only.

\* Has a 60-hour field experience for candidates who are not classroom teachers or have access to an elementary/early childhood classroom to complete a mini-action research project in the semester the capstone course is taken. If you are the teacher of record in an elementary or early childhood classroom, you may use your classroom for this field experience. If you work as an aide in an elementary school, you may do this field experience in your school IF you can get access to an elementary/early childhood classroom where you can complete the capstone course requirement of doing a mini-action research project. If you need a placement for this 60-hours experience, the Dean's office in Hart Hall will provide you with a placement. You will need to complete an application for this 60-hour field experience the semester prior to when you will take the capstone course.

To find out when the EDMC courses are offered, go to the BSU web page, click on "Infobear", click on "available course sections", then select a subject "Education – Masters CORE". For Elementary or Early Childhood, select Elementary or Early Childhood for the subject. Course offerings listed on-line typically available at the beginning of November (for Spring courses) and at the beginning of April for Fall courses and Summer courses.

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Schedule of when to take courses once in the Graduate program:

For a candidate who graduates in May:

- Summer (\*)
  - EDMC 530 Teacher as a Researcher
  - ELED course with selected concentration focus
- Fall
  - EDMC 531 Standards- based Classroom: Curriculum
  - EDMC 532 Teacher as a Leader: Issues to Advocacy
  - EDMC 533 Standards-based Classroom: Instruction
  - ELED course with selected concentration focus
  - ELED course with selected concentration focus
- Spring
  - ELED course with selected concentration focus
  - 1 content elective (must be pre-approved by advisor)\*\*
  - ELED 554 Graduate Seminar Elementary #

For a candidate who graduates in January:

- Spring (\*)
  - ELED course with selected concentration focus
  - ELED course with selected concentration focus
  - EDMC 530 Teacher as a Researcher
  - EDMC 531 Standards- based Classroom: Curriculum
  - EDMC 533 Standards-based Classroom: Instruction
- Summer
  - EDMC 532 Teacher as a Leader: Issues to Advocacy
  - ELED course with selected concentration focus
- Fall
  - ELED course with selected concentration focus
  - 1 content elective (must be pre-approved by advisor)\*
  - ELED 554 Graduate Seminar Elementary #

### Schedule of Course Offering:

As you plan out your program, we wanted you to have a schedule of when graduate concentration courses will be offered. Of course, things can change so check either InfoBear or contact your advisor.

#### **Fall**

ELED 508 Technology and STEM Education

ELED 521 Differentiating Instruction in the Elementary Classroom

#### **Spring**

ELED 567 Mathematics for Teachers PreK- Grade 6

ELED 560 Science and the World Around Us (topics course)

#### **Summer**

ELED 500 Digital Media in the Elementary Classroom

ELED 522 Science & Engineering Practices

### **Turning your Initial License into a Professional License**

The Massachusetts Initial Teaching License is valid for five years of employment. Within five years of using your initial license, teachers must earn a Professional Teaching license. According to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, one of the steps to turn your Initial license into a Professional license is to earn an *APPROPRIATE* Masters degree combined with 3 years teaching experience. The DESE defines this degree as a Masters in Elementary/Early Childhood Education with at least 50% content courses. This is our Masters leading to Professional Licensure program.

#### ***Your First Step – Apply to the Graduate Admissions Office:***

Once you are in your final two semesters of your undergraduate program (the block or student teaching), you will go online to apply to the Graduate School. There will be an abbreviated application to complete. To be admitted, candidates must meet the following criteria: 1) proof that you have passed all required MTELs for your initial license, 2) an undergraduate GPA of at least 2.8. **Candidates are NOT required to take or submit GRE scores.**

When applying to the College of Graduate Studies, be sure to apply to the correct program. Below are listed the two concentration and appropriate program codes:

ELED-ELPT-M Elementary Education (Professional Licensure), Applications of Technology in the Elementary Classroom Concentration, MEd

ELED-ELPS-M Elementary Education (Professional Licensure), STEM Education Concentration, MEd

ECED-ELPT-M Early Childhood Education (Professional Licensure), Applications of Technology in the Elementary Classroom Concentration, MEd

ECED-ELPS-M Early Childhood Education (Professional Licensure), STEM Education Concentration, MEd

**Graduate Advising:** Unlike your undergraduate experience where you had to meet with your advisor before you could register for courses each semester, you will not be required to do this once you are taking graduate level courses. Once admitted to the program, you will receive a letter from the Graduate School. It will indicate who your advisor is. You **MUST** reach out to meet with your advisor at the start of the semester you are starting to take courses at the graduate level. At this meeting, you will complete required documentation and will go over your program of study. Although you can register for courses for the semester you are officially admitted, you **MUST** meet with your advisor!!!! This is your

connection to your advisor. Call him/her and make an appointment. This must be done as soon as you begin taking graduate courses. After that meeting, your advisor will contact the Graduate School to release you for all future registration of courses (an electronic hold will be placed for any additional registration of courses until you have met with your advisor and released for registration). Once you are admitted into the program and have met with your advisor, registration is easy and on-line.

For more information and an application, go to <http://www.bridgew.edu/admissions/graduate/apply>  
You can also contact the College of Graduate Studies at 508-531-1300.

Any questions about our program, please feel free to contact your Elementary Education advisor or the Graduate Coordinator:

Dr Steven Greenberg [sgreenberg@bridgew.edu](mailto:sgreenberg@bridgew.edu) 508-531-2329