

Routes to Initial Licensure

3/28/07

- Required for all Licenses:*
- (1) Bachelor's degree
 - (2) Completion of an approved program as set forth in 7.03 (2) (a)
 - (3) Passing score on the Communication and Literacy Skills test
 - (4) Passing score on subject matter knowledge test(s) appropriate to the license sought

Routes	Comments
(1) Route One is for teacher candidates who receive their preparation in approved undergraduate programs. Route One cannot be used to prepare for a license as a library teacher. Candidates seeking licensure under Route One shall meet the above requirements (refer to 7.05 for specific content and semester hours details).	This is the typical BA/BS Route.
(2) Route Two is for teacher candidates who receive their preparation in approved post-baccalaureate programs, including approved alternative programs.	This is the "district based program" route. District based programs affiliated with Fitchburg State College are: >Hampshire Education Collaborative >Merrimack Education Center >Catherine Leahy Brine
(3) Route Three is for teacher candidates who hold a Preliminary license, serve in a school and are either hired as teachers of record or are serving an apprenticeship in a classroom under the direct supervision of a teacher who holds an appropriate license. Candidates seeking licensure under Route Three shall meet the following requirements: (a) Possession of a Preliminary license in the field and at the level of the license sought. See 603 CMR 7.04 (2) (a). (b) An approved program for the license sought.	This route sends candidates to other approved program routes
(4) Route Four is the Performance Review Program for Initial Licensure process for teacher candidates who hold a Preliminary license, are hired as teachers of record, and are working in a district that does not have an approved program for the Initial license. Route Four is not available for the following teacher and specialist teacher licenses: early childhood, elementary, library, teacher of students with moderate disabilities, teacher of students with severe disabilities, teacher of the deaf and hard-of-hearing, teacher of the visually impaired, academically advanced, reading, and speech/language/hearing disorders. Candidates seeking licensure under Route Four shall meet the following eligibility requirements: (a) Possession of a Preliminary license in the field and at the level of the license sought. See 603 CMR 7.04 (2) (a). (b) At least three full years of employment in the role of the Preliminary license. (c) Documentation of seminars, courses, and experience relevant to the Professional Standards for Teachers in 603 7.08 (2). (d) A recommendation from the principal of each school where the candidate was employed under the Preliminary license or in the role of the license sought. (e) A competency review for those license fields that have no subject matter knowledge test, or for which not all the subject matter knowledge required for the license is measured by the test.	This is described on the DOE web site at: www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.asp?id=2726 Cost: \$2,000 No college credit awarded This is the fastest route to licensure and may be the best solution for someone who has been teaching for several years under a preliminary license See Department of Education Letter dated January 24, 2006
(5) Route Five is for candidates from outside Massachusetts. Candidates seeking licensure under Route Five shall meet the following requirements: (a) Evidence of one of the following: >Completion of a state-approved educator preparation program in a state with which Massachusetts has signed the NASDTEC Interstate Contract. >Completion of an educator preparation program sponsored by a college or university outside Massachusetts that has been accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). >Possession of a Regional Credential. >Possession of the equivalent of at least an Initial license/certificate issued by a state with which Massachusetts has signed the NASDTEC Interstate Contract and three years of employment under such license/certificate during the previous seven years. (b) Passing score on the Communication and Literacy Skills test. (c) Passing score on the subject matter knowledge test(s) appropriate to the license sought	This is for out of state teachers. Most states belong to NASDTEC

