

## Routes to the Professional License

Common Requirements for All Routes	Comments
1. Possession of an Initial license in the same field as the Professional license sought. 2. Completion of a one-year induction program with a mentor. 3. At least three full years of employment under the Initial license. 4. At least 50 hours of a mentored experience beyond the induction year, which may be fulfilled as part of a program option in 603 CMR 7.04 (2) (c) 5.	Candidates sometimes forget/don't realize that they must have 3 years of experience and must present a letter from an administrator in their district to document this. If they finish one of our programs prior to completing the three years, they should be directed to send a letter to the DOE on their own when the 3 years are completed.
Routes	Comments
1. Approved district-based program for the Professional license sought as set forth in 603 CMR 7.03 (2) (b) 1. a.  <b><i>District/Agency endorses Candidates</i></b>	This program is offered by school districts or agencies, such as the Catherine Leahy Brine program on the south shore, with which we are affiliated. Candidates complete a 12 credit approved program, then apply for the license but typically continue to finish the master's with us.
2. A master's or higher graduate level program in an accredited college or university that is or includes one of the following: a) Approved program for the Professional license sought as set forth in 603 CMR 7.03 (2) (b) 1. b. b) A master's degree program or other advanced graduate program in the academic discipline* appropriate to the license sought in a graduate or professional school other than education.  <b><i>Fitchburg State College endorses Candidates</i></b>	This is the most traditional route. Candidates complete one of our approved programs leading to the professional license and when they have 3 years of experience they can apply for professional status. Or, for middle and high school teachers, the MA, MAT or any master's in the discipline of the license without pedagogy is acceptable.
3. For those who have completed any master's or higher degree or other advanced graduate program not described in 603 CMR 7.04 (2) (c) 5. b., in an accredited college or university, one of the following: a. Approved, non-degree, 12-credit program of which no fewer than nine credits are in the academic discipline appropriate to the instructional field of the Professional license sought as set forth in 603 CMR 7.03 (2) (b) 1.  b. 12 credits of graduate level courses in the academic discipline appropriate to the instructional field of the Professional license sought; these may include credits earned prior to application for the license.  <b><i>Candidate applies to MADOE for licensure</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For "b": This route is the most recently developed option. If a candidate has completed a master's degree, if the program was not an "approved" program, but included 9-12 credits in the "discipline" (3 of the 12 credits could be in pedagogy).the candidate can apply to the DOE (not through FSC) for the professional license.</li> </ul>
c. Programs leading to eligibility for master teacher status, such as those sponsored by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and others accepted by the Commissioner.  <b><i>Candidate applies to MADOE for licensure</i></b>	Candidates who are National Board Certified are eligible for professional license.
7. A Department-sponsored Performance Assessment Program, when available.	This option is not currently available.

\* "Discipline" for middle school or secondary licenses= content courses with the appropriate prefix for the area (e.g. Math courses must have MATH prefix). For Early Childhood, Elementary and Special Ed, since the "discipline" as outlined in the regs is comprised of pedagogy and child development, courses can include advanced pedagogy and child development. Prefixes can be EDUC, READ or SPED, but they should be advanced and preferably discipline related (e.g. Advanced Methods in Teaching Math). All Special Ed and Reading Courses can apply toward the Early Childhood and Elementary license.\*

Language under review by the DOE 3/28/07