ADMISSION AND RETENTION POLICIES FOR THE STEM TEACHING MINOR
AND FOR
THE PRACTICUM AND TEACHER CERTIFICATION

STEM TEACHING MINOR

The STEM Teaching minor is 18 credits consisting of the following courses:

- UTL 201 Knowing and Learning in STEM Fields (Core Curriculum SS)
- UTL 202 Interactions and Equity (pre-req UTL 201)
- UTL 204 Perspectives in Math and Science (Core Curriculum A/H)
- UTL 301 Project Based Instruction (pre-req UTL 202)
- UTL 302 Research Methods
- UTL 441 Teaching English Language Learners (required for MA SEI endorsement)

By completing these courses, you will only receive the STEM Teaching minor upon graduation. The minor alone is not sufficient for you to receive Teacher Certification. In order to obtain Teacher Certification, you will need to successfully complete the Practicum, which is 6 credits. To plan your program of study in order to integrate the STEM Teaching minor with your academic major, you may work with the advisor in your department or college listed below:

- Biology advisor: Dr. Wernick
- Math advisor: Dr. Graham-Eagle or Dr. Levasseur
- Chemistry advisor: Dr. Farris
- Physics advisor: Dr. Lepeshkin
- Engineering advisor: Dr. Kazmer

DECLARING THE STEM TEACHING MINOR

- You may not declare a minor until your sophomore year.
- Entry into the minor is based upon successful completion of the UTeach courses STEP 1 and STEP 2 with the grade of B- or better and positive recommendation of your UTeach instructors.
- If you are planning on obtaining a teaching certificate, you will declare the STEM Teaching minor no later than when you enroll in UTL 202 Interactions and Equity.
- To declare the minor your overall GPA should be 2.7 and you must be in good academic standing. If your overall GPA is below 2.7 you will need to discuss your progress and intentions with the UTeach Coordinator (Dr. Lewis).
- You declare the STEM Teaching minor by completing the form found at: http://www.uml.edu/docs/declarationofmajor_tcm18-3567.pdf. This form will be signed by either Dr. Lewis or Dr. Bobek as your minor “New Advisor” and by Dr. Lewis as the Coordinator.

As minor courses UTL 202, 301, and 441 require extensive field work, you must demonstrate appropriate professional dispositions. Those who do not display professionalism when in schools cannot be allowed to continue in the minor or proceed to the practicum. You must have an overall GPA of 2.7 to continue to the practicum, but you can complete the minor with a GPA of 2.0 or better.

### PRACTICUM AND TEACHER CERTIFICATION

Completion of a 12 week, teaching practicum in a local middle or high school is required for teacher certification in Massachusetts. As the practicum is a full-time commitment, you should have completed all other degree requirements, leaving you with the 6 credit practicum only to complete. Consequently, the practicum is generally taken in the final semester of your undergraduate degree. In some cases a directed study or senior capstone related to the practicum may be completed during the practicum semester. Special permission is required to take the practicum before your final semester. During the Practicum, you will work with a teacher at the school in which you are placed (Supervising Practitioner) and you will gradually take over his/her whole schedule over the course of the 12 weeks. You will also come for a seminar at UMass Lowell for one hour every week. During the practicum, you will be observed by the Supervising Practitioner, and a UTeach supervisor. You are expected to be in school full-time.

**The Practicum is a 6 credit course, but you will still be coded as a full-time student.** This means you will receive the normal allocation for housing if you live in a residence hall, but you will only receive financial aid for 6 credits of course work.

To proceed into the Practicum and obtain you Initial Teaching License you need to meet the following requirements:

- Successful completion of all UTEACH courses
- Overall GPA of 2.7
- Consistently demonstrated appropriate professional dispositions for teaching and appropriate behaviors for entry into a profession.
- Passing score on the Communications and Literacy MTEL subtests
- Passing score on the CONTENT AREA MTEL

Additionally Math Majors and Computer Science Majors must also take:

- 92.427 Geometry
- 92.210 Functions and Modeling.
Deviation from the above requirements will require discussion with and permission of UTeach program faculty. Conditions for proceeding to practicum may be imposed; however, if you do not obtain a passing score on the MTEL tests, you will not be allowed to proceed into the practicum regardless of your GPA.

**Professional Dispositions for Teaching** are attitudes and behaviors of teachers who are committed to teaching and learning. Throughout your course work we shall be looking for such attributes as:

- Commitment to teaching
- Role model for students
- Strong work ethic
- Cooperative
- Approachable
- Patient
- Open to feedback from supervisors
- Flexibility
- Sense of decorum in behavior and attire
- Organized
- Ethical and fair decision-making

**MTEL** (Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure) tests are designed to measure candidates' ability to read with comprehension and write with clarity as well as to measure the breadth and depth of candidates' knowledge in specific subject fields.

Testing requirements for the Academic (PreK–12) education program include a test of communication and literacy skills as well as a test of subject matter knowledge. The tests are designed to ensure that Massachusetts educators can communicate adequately with students, parents/guardians, and other educators and that they are knowledgeable in the subject matter of the license sought.

**Licensure Test Requirements – for full information go to:**

**Testing Requirements**
1) Communication and Literacy Skills test (01)
   AND
2) Relevant subject matter test Math(09), Biology(13), Physics(11), Chemistry(12), Technology/Engineering(33), Earth Science(14)

*We recommend that you take the SUBJECT TEST at the end of your Sophomore year or beginning of your Junior year. You should take the Communications and Literacy tests in your Junior year. Do not leave the tests until the semester before your practicum. You may not schedule a test during class time or during a scheduled field experience.*
POST-BACCALAUREATE PRACTICUM

If you cannot fit the practicum into your undergraduate degree, you can take it after you graduate; however, you must do this in one of the two semesters immediately following graduation.

After graduation, you must register as a non-degree student and pay for 6 credits of undergraduate coursework. You will not receive financial aid as a non-degree student.

At present, Massachusetts allows you to teach on a preliminary license, without having carried out your practicum. If you accept a full-time teaching position immediately following graduation, you may not do the practicum until you have been teaching for one semester on a preliminary license.

You can only do the practicum in Massachusetts and the school must be within a reasonable commuting distance from UMass Lowell in order for UTeach faculty to be able to supervise your work.

If you choose to do the Practicum post-baccalaureate, you will need to meet with one of the UTeach faculty for an interview. During the interview, the UTeach faculty will go over the requirements for the practicum to ensure that you have met the criteria, and make arrangements to place you in a school.

Please note, you only have one year after graduation to complete the practicum with UTeach.

It is your responsibility to contact the UTeach Coordinator to request a post-baccalaureate practicum by August 1st for a fall practicum and December 1st for a spring practicum.

The UTeach faculty are here to help you to successfully complete the program and become a STEM teacher.