

Graduate Program Admission Criteria

- Official transcript from baccalaureate degree-granting college or university. The transcript must be sent directly from the institution to the Office of Graduate and Continuing Education. A minimum GPA of 2.8 is required.
- Official transcripts from all graduate programs from which you are requesting transfer credit, and, if applicable, all institutions from which you have received graduate degrees
- Standardized test scores, including the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT), achieving minimum score at 50th percentile
- Three letters of recommendation (must be mailed directly to the Office of Graduate and Continuing Education) from individuals under whom the applicant has studied or under whose supervision they worked in a professional capacity
- A professional resume
- A personal statement
- Passing scores for the Communications and Literacy subtests of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL) are required for all applicants to graduate and certificate programs leading to initial licensure to teach in the state of Massachusetts

For Further Information

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Meeting the Challenge

An Initial Licensure Scholarship Program designed to prepare special education teachers in the high-need urban school districts of Fitchburg, Leominster, Lowell and Worcester.

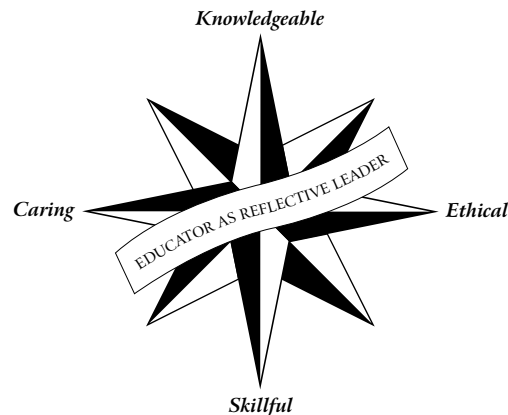
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Funded through the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Please visit the
Fitchburg State College
Meeting the Challenge web site at
www.fsc.edu/meetchallenge/



FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE

Print Services Grant11942 MeetingChallengeBro.indd 6/07

Master of Education Special Education



Initial Licensure Scholarship Program

For teachers and paraprofessionals
in the school districts of:

Fitchburg
Leominster
Lowell
Worcester

FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE
Meeting the Challenge

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An Initial Licensure Scholarship Program designed to prepare special education teachers in the high-need urban school districts of Fitchburg, Leominster, Lowell and Worcester.

Fitchburg State College and the Massachusetts urban school districts of Fitchburg, Leominster, Lowell and Worcester have developed Meeting the Challenge, a collaborative special education initial licensure program. The program is designed to alleviate the critical shortages of highly qualified teachers in special education by providing teacher training, financial aid, support and retention services for unlicensed teachers in the partner districts. Meeting the Challenge works with professionals who currently teach students with high incidence disabilities. Teachers will receive enhanced skill development that will improve the academic performance of students with high incidence disabilities in inclusive classrooms.

Program Goals

To address this shortage of highly qualified teachers in special education in high need urban districts, Meeting the Challenge has established the following goals:

- Support up to 33 credits in a research-based, clinical experience graduate program that will lead to initial licensure for teachers with emergency licensure (Massachusetts Department of Education waiver) in special education; all credits apply to the Fitchburg State College master's degree in special education
- Provide teacher licensure preparation for paraprofessionals currently working in special education classrooms who have baccalaureate degrees in other fields
- Provide preparation for licensure endorsement for English Language Learning to meet the Massachusetts Department of Education standards for highly qualified status of initial licensure and professional development for special education teachers who serve sheltered English immersion students in the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening
- Implement training for mentors of beginning teachers to ensure they have the necessary skills to meet the unique needs of special educators
- Offer intensive mentoring and professional development programs for special education teachers who are in their first three years of teaching to address and alleviate the high incidence of attrition experienced by these districts



Scholarship Eligibility

To be eligible for a scholarship through the *Meeting the Challenge* program a student must meet the following criteria.

- Be a citizen or a national of the U.S. with lawful permanent residency
- Complete a FAFSA
- Commit to and meet a service obligation of working with children with disabilities
- Work with the special needs population in one of the partner districts or a public school collaborative serving a partner district
- Be employed as a special education teacher on an emergency license (waiver) or employed as a special education paraprofessional with a bachelor's degree
- Maintain satisfactory progress and performance in the program of study per Fitchburg State graduate school policy
- Must not accept educational allowances from any other entity

Master of Education in Special Education Initial Licensure Plan of Study

Prerequisite Courses

(for those without teacher licensure)

SPED 7020	Modifying and Adapting Curriculum: Math, Science, and Social Studies	3
SPED 7025	Pedagogy in Reading	3
Total credits		6

Required Courses

SPED 7004	Working with Individuals with Disabilities*	3
SPED 8300	Language Development, Differences and Disorders*	3
SPED 8914	Assessment, Curriculum, Strategies in Reading/Language Arts*	6
SPED 8924	Assessment, Curriculum, and Strategies for Math/Science, Social Studies, and Cognitive Assessment*	6
SPED 8180	Positive Behavioral Supports for Students with Disabilities*	3
SPED 9130	Advanced Identification and Remediation of Reading/Language Based Learning Disabilities*	3
SPED 8962	Clinical Experience* (must pass all required tests before entering the clinical experience)	6
SPED 9200	Consultation and Collaboration Strategies	3
SPED 9000	Research in Special Education	3
SPED 9002	Research Application (taken concurrently with SPED 8962)	1
SPED 7412	Sheltered Content Instruction for English Language Learners*	3
Total credits		40

*The scholarship supports these initial licensure courses.

