

# School of Education & National Institute for Teaching Excellence (NITE)

## Introduction & Policies

Cambridge College is responding to rising standards for teachers by offering a variety of cutting-edge master of education programs that lead to educator licensure (certification). Other programs are for seasoned, licensed educators, and those who work in educational settings where licensure is not required. These programs can help teachers renew their passion for teaching and advance their careers. For educators who already hold master's degrees, we offer a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (Education Specialist) and a Doctorate of Education.

### Learning Community & Faculty

The Cambridge College School of Education is a broadly based, inclusive learning community. Our diverse faculty of scholar-practitioners includes experienced teachers, other educators, school administrators, and educational researchers. The School of Education attracts a highly diverse student body, providing a rich learning experience for all.



### Effective Learning & Teaching

The education faculty has pioneered effective learning and teaching techniques such as accelerated learning and integrative teaching. Incorporated into elementary and secondary curricula, these effective teaching methods improve the performance of an increasingly diverse school population.

### Schools

Schools are at the heart of Cambridge College's mission. The College trains teachers and other school professionals who reflect the diversity of our nation's public schools, and who understand first-hand the difficulties that school children and their families face. Many of our faculty are practicing teachers and school administrators themselves.

In order to learn well, we believe that school children must have teachers with whom they can identify. Their performance is partly due to the role models and the teaching strategies they experience. Therefore, we especially welcome bilingual and minority students, including those who have not been served well by traditional education. We work with each motivated adult to be sure that he or she gains the skills needed to succeed.

### Educators, Choose Your Program Carefully

Before enrolling, students who may wish to get a license (certificate) must get current information from the state education dept. where they seek licensure or licensure status upgrade, comply with its requirements, and follow its procedures. All applicants are responsible for:

- Being thoroughly informed about licensure requirements.
- Understanding Cambridge College education programs and policies, and how differences between non-licensure and licensure programs may affect plans for licensure.
- Checking with the state education dept. before enrolling, to verify acceptability of their Cambridge College program chosen for the license sought. State requirements may impact program choice.

### Advising & Professional Seminar

**Admissions counselors** give applicants an overview of the College's academic programs and assist with the application process. Program coordinators are available for further academic counseling.

**Professional Seminar** — The faculty instructor leading the professional seminar will be the academic advisor and mentor to each student throughout the program. The seminar provides varied opportunities for self-assessment, peer assessment, and faculty guidance for pursuing growth and competencies related to success in the area of study and/or licensure. In licensure programs, the professional seminar also includes a clinical journal and professional growth plan.

Students bring the wealth of their individual experiences to the seminar, and learn from the collective knowledge of all. They advise, support, and network with one another throughout their program and thereafter.

The seminar leader is the supervisor of the final project (independent learning/research project, action research project, or doctoral dissertation) with responsibility for approval. Seminars focus on professional issues in the student's field and support professional development.

### Academic Support

Faculty support and cooperative learning help adult learners to meet the challenges of higher education and standards for educator licensure.

**Writing Support** — A major goal of Cambridge College is to produce graduates who think critically and communicate clearly—orally and in writing. Writing is a complex process that takes a lot of time and practice. Therefore, a writing assessment is conducted and students are referred to writing course work and writing support as needed. Students can improve their communication and literacy skills to get the most from their course work and write their independent learning projects.

Writing faculty tutors guide students through the writing process, from articulating a main idea, to generating supporting details and organizing them, through proofreading and editing for errors.

### Transfer Credit

Transfer courses must meet all general criteria for transfer and match current program requirements, especially for licensure programs. See Transfer of Credit for more information.



### Program Outcomes

Academic programs develop skills, competencies, attitudes, values, and habits of mind which enable educators to nurture learning in schools, families, and communities. Students will:

- Be affirmed as individuals and professionals.
- Discover their strengths and learning/thinking styles.
- Acquire content and skills in their area of study and meet professional standards.
- Teach effectively people from diverse backgrounds and with diverse needs.
- Realize their own potential and create learning environments in which others realize their potential.
- Develop a network of relationships with fellow learners, Cambridge College faculty, and the faculty in their own schools.

## Licensure Programs & Policies

The Cambridge College School of Education offers a variety of innovative academic programs to train educators for classrooms, specialized education professions, and administration.

### Educator Licensure Programs Approved

Cambridge College programs preparing students for educator licensure are approved by the Massachusetts Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE), are within current Massachusetts state guidelines, and are subject to its regulations and standards.

Massachusetts has reciprocal agreements with many other states through the NASDTEC Compact. However, some states may not accept out-of-state teacher preparation programs. Check with your state education dept. before enrolling!

**Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, Puerto Rico** — Students may apply for licensure after completing an approved Cambridge College licensure program and meeting all other state requirements.

### Regulations & Programs May Change

Nation-wide, standards for teachers are rising; regulations in any state may change at any time. To help our students meet evolving professional standards, our programs are subject to change and our program coordinators are available to counsel students.

### Path to Licensure in Massachusetts

Students who wish to pursue licensure are responsible for contacting the Mass. Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education, following its procedures, and meeting its requirements. Program coordinators are available to counsel students regarding licensure. Students must:

- Complete an approved Cambridge College licensure program: all academic requirements, practicum; pass all applicable Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTELs).
- Do the practicum in Massachusetts in a school which uses the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.
- Submit official undergraduate and graduate transcripts to the Mass. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education, and meet any other state requirements.

## Path to Licensure in Other States

Students pursuing licensure are responsible for getting current information from their state education dept., meeting its requirements, and following its procedures. Please follow the path to licensure it recommends, including:

- Complete an approved Cambridge College licensure program.
- Follow your own state's licensure procedures and pass all applicable tests.
- Complete your state program verification form with assistance from the Cambridge College Educator Licensure Office. Submit form and official transcript to your state education dept. when you graduate.
- Comply with any additional state requirements that apply.

## Practicum

**Massachusetts** — The practicum, required for all concentrations that lead to Massachusetts initial licensure, must be completed:

- In a school that uses the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.
- Under a licensed supervising practitioner (teacher or administrator) who holds the license for which you are preparing.
- With supervision and on-site visitation by Cambridge College faculty.

The degree program and its practicum prepare students for licensure in *one* area and level of licensure. For example, students preparing for special education licensure must choose either PreK-8 or 5-12, not both. State regulations do not permit students to add a second practicum for a second level.

Students are not allowed to register for the second segment of a two-term practicum if they have an *Incomplete* grade in the first segment.

**Practicum site** — Licensure students are expected to locate a practicum site and a local educator who is willing to serve as the supervising practitioner. This educator must possess a license corresponding to the license the student is seeking. The student's program coordinator must approve the practicum and the practicum site. Cambridge College will select a faculty supervisor to observe students in practicum.

**Prerequisites** — Before registering for practicum, you must:

- Pass all teacher tests required by your state for the license sought.
- Complete Pre-practicum with 75 or more hours of directed field-based training in conjunction with selected courses.
- Pass all required courses.

**An Exit Performance Portfolio** is required to pass the practicum seminar. It must show evidence of knowledge and skills in the area and level of licensure sought, and mastery of the Professional Standards for Teachers. It also documents:

- Nature and length of the pre-practicum.
- Courses.
- Clock hours fulfilling the role(s).
- Name and position of the College supervisor and supervising practitioner(s).
- Evidence of meetings between supervisors and the candidate.

**Practicum in other states** — If a student is pursuing a practicum in a state other than Massachusetts, that practicum may be adjusted to

meet that particular state's requirements if those requirements exceed Massachusetts requirements.

## Tests for Educator Licensure

**Students seeking licensure** are required to pass the Communication and Literacy test, subject matter knowledge tests, and the Foundations of Reading test (MTEL) as required by Massachusetts for the license sought, before registering for a practicum. We highly recommend that this exam be taken at the end of the first term. Academic support is available to students who need to strengthen basic skills before repeating the test.

**States other than Massachusetts** — Through reciprocal agreements, many states recognize academic programs approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for licensure. However, the teacher testing requirements of each state still apply. Therefore, most students pursuing licensure at our regional centers and in our NITE programs take their own state's exams rather than the MTEs. Students are responsible for checking with their state education dept. and planning accordingly.

**CAGS/EdD students seeking licensure** — Massachusetts students who have previously passed the *Communication and Literacy* test (MTEL) when obtaining their prerequisite license need not repeat the test. Students who obtained their Massachusetts educator license before these exams were required must take the MTEL as a licensure practicum prerequisite. Students from other states who have previously met their own state's current teacher test requirements need not repeat the test.

## Non-Licensure Options

Some initial licensure programs offer a non-licensure option. Please note: ***Students who complete a non-licensure option cannot be endorsed for licensure.***

**Admission requirements for non-licensure students** are the same as for licensure students unless otherwise stated on the program chart.

**Academic requirements** — All program components are required except the practicum, practicum seminar, and teacher tests. Non-licensure students must complete all course contact hours and pre-practicum hours embedded in the courses. If necessary to keep the total number of credits at or above 32 credits, additional work will be specified. See program charts for non-licensure option information.

# Career Advancement Programs & Policies

For Licensed/Certified Teachers & Other Education Professionals

## Renewal, Advancement & Special Topics

These non-licensure academic programs are designed for educators who wish to advance or renew their careers by pursuing professional development opportunities, or for educators who work in settings where a license is not required.

***These programs do not lead to educator licensure. The School of Education cannot fill out state program verification forms, nor can the College endorse for educator licensure graduates of these programs.***



**Non-Licensure Students Taking Licensure Courses**

Students enrolled in non-licensure programs are invited to take licensure courses. These courses require more class time than other courses.

All students registering for courses that include pre-practicum hours of directed field-based training outside of class must complete all prepracticum hours in order to earn credit for the course *whether or not they intend to take a practicum or pursue licensure*.

take one course each week. They also get academic support and participate in other academic activities. They return to their schools renewed and empowered to improve their classrooms, school systems, and their own lives.

**Colloquium** — Colloquium presentations by experts in the field of education are a core experience for all NITE students each summer.

**Site, Facilities & Equipment** — Cambridge College holds the NITE Summer Institute at a site in greater Boston with the facilities and services needed to support our academic programs. Cambridge College supplies or arranges for the audio-visual and computer equipment used for classroom instruction.

**Fall & Beyond** — NITE students continue their academic program online and/or at a Cambridge College regional center where their particular program is authorized and offered. Please contact the program coordinator for more information.

# National Institute for Teaching Excellence

Cambridge College's School of Education brings educators from around the country and abroad for an intensive summer of study, in the National Institute for Teaching Excellence (NITE). Students typically



Master of Education

## Program Locations

at Cambridge College Centers

	Initial Licensure	Professional	Non-Licensure	Cambridge, MA	Springfield, MA	Lawrence, MA	Chesapeake, VA	Augusta, GA	Memphis, TN	Ontario, CA	San Juan, PR	
<b>MEd Licensure programs for public school K-12 educators</b>												
Early Childhood Teacher.....	●			●	●	●	●				●	
Elementary Teacher .....	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
English as a Second Language .....	●			●		●					●	
General Science (1-6, 5-8) .....	●		●	●							●	
Health/Family & Consumer Science .....	●	●	●	●							●	
Instructional Technology.....	●		●	●							●	
Library Teacher .....	●		●	●	●			●			●	
Mathematics (1-6, 5-8, 8-12) .....	●		●	●						●	●	
Middle School Math & Science (submitted for approval).....	●		●	●							●	
School Administration (see Educational Leadership).....	●		●	●		●		●	●	●	●	
School Guidance (see School of Psychology & Counseling).....	●	●		●			●	●	●	●	●	
Special Education/Moderate Disabilities.....	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
<b>MEd Recommended for credentialed teachers for career advancement &amp; renewal</b>												
Autism .....			●	●							●	
Behavioral Management.....			●	●						●		
Information Technology Literacy .....			●	●								
Interdisciplinary Studies.....			●	●	●	●	●				●	
Literacy Education .....			●	●								
School Nurse Education .....			●	●						●		
Teaching Skills & Methodologies.....			●	●				●	●	●		
Art Education (see Puerto Rico web pages).....			●	●							●	
Workforce Education (see Puerto Rico web pages).....			●	●							●	
Individualized M.Ed. (I.M.Ed.).....			●	●								
I.M.Ed. in Humane Education.....			●	●								
<b>Graduate Certificates</b>												
Behavior Analyst Certificate (post-master's) .....				●								
English as a Second Language .....				●								
Mathematics Specialist .....				●								
Health Education Health Promotion (post-master's).....				●								

**Programs offered as of July 2009:** subject to change. See your regional center's web page for their current program list.

**Regional centers** offer only programs authorized by their state education authorities, with sufficient enrollment.

**Puerto Rico** — Only School Administration is for educator licensure.