

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT LICENSURE

Although this is not an exhaustive list of frequent inquiries to our office about PreK-12 licensure, it does represent those most frequently asked.

1. What are the three levels of PreK-12 license in Massachusetts, and what do they mean?

- a. **Preliminary License:** for people who hold a bachelor's degree, but have not been prepared to teach in either their undergraduate program or in a post baccalaureate program. It is issued upon the candidate's receipt of passing scores on the appropriate MTEL tests and additionally, for Early Childhood, Elementary and Teacher of Students with Moderate Disabilities license candidates, completion of seminars or courses in reading, ELA, math, and inclusion of students with disabilities in general education classrooms.

The Preliminary License is good for five years and may not be renewed. Within those five years, candidates must complete a DOE-approved program designed to bring the Preliminary License to the Initial License level. **(Leahy-Brine has 24 DOE-approved fields for the Initial License.)**

- b. **Initial License:** issued to teachers who hold a bachelor's degree, have passed the appropriate MTEL tests, and have been prepared to teach in either an undergraduate program or in a post baccalaureate program (see *section a* above). It is good for five years and may be renewed once.
- c. **Professional Licensure:** issued to teachers who hold an Initial License and have completed a DOE-approved Professional Licensure Program. Additionally, candidates must have worked for a minimum of three years under their Initial License and have completed the required induction and fifty hours beyond the induction mentoring programs. **(Leahy-Brine has 16 DOE-approved fields for Professional Licensure .)**

2. How do I move from one license level to another?

This information is contained in question number one, but the most important point is that to move from one license level to another, a major requirement is the completion of a DOE-approved program. The DOE web site has clear graphic representation of this information:

- a. For Routes to Initial License, visit: www.doe.mass.edu/Educators/Initial_routes.gif
- b. For Options (or Routes) for the Professional License, visit: www.doe.mass.edu/Educators/pro_routes.gif

3. Can courses from my Initial License Program be used in my Professional License Program?

No, the licensure regulations are very specific about this. The regulations say, "**Coursework and requirements used by candidates to satisfy the requirements for an initial license may not be used to satisfy the requirements for the Professional license in the same field.**"

Visit: www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr7.html?section=03 (See Section 703, 2 (b) 1)

4. Why should I choose Catherine Leahy Brine Programs?

- a. All candidates are supported with a strong, on-going advising component for the duration of their program. The **accurate and precise** advising is accomplished with a required course that is part of the candidate's Plan of Study.
- b. Leahy-Brine has no licensure "middle man." Because we have written our own DOE-approved Initial and Professional Licensure Programs, we deal *directly* with the DOE for all licensure issues.
- c. Leahy-Brine has 24 licensure fields approved by the DOE for Initial Licensure Programs. This can be taken as an 18 credit, stand-alone Initial Licensure Program **or** the 18 credits can be embedded into the 36 credit Fitchburg State University Master of Education in Curriculum and Teaching. (They are part of the 36 credits.)
- d. Leahy-Brine has 16 licensure fields approved by the DOE for Professional Licensure Programs. To obtain Professional License through Catherine Leahy Brine, **no other courses need to be taken after completion of the 12 credit, stand-alone Professional Licensure Program or the 36 credit Fitchburg State University Master of Education in Curriculum and Teaching in which the Professional Licensure credits can be embedded. (They are part of the 36 credits.)**
- e. Leahy Brine Programs are high quality, time-tested, supportive and cost effective. Contact us soon for an Information Session so that we can begin to advise you personally and **accurately** on the important issues surrounding licensure and other professional advancement programs for educators.