

Accelerated Post Baccalaureate in Secondary Education

FAQs, or Frequently Asked Questions

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Applying to the APB Program

What is the Accelerated Post Baccalaureate Program in Secondary Education?

You can read all about the APB program [online here](#). The most important thing you need to know: The APB does NOT give you a degree. It is a program that results in the initial license you need to teach in the state of Massachusetts.

What initial licenses are offered through the APB program?

Our program leads to initial licensure in the following content areas and grade levels (please note that the grade levels are determined by the state, and not by BSU):

- Biology (8-12)
- Chemistry (8-12)
- Dance (all levels)
- Earth & Space Science (8-12)
- English (5-12)
- Foreign Language, Spanish (5-12)
- History (5-12)
- Mathematics (5-8 or 8-12)
- Music (all levels)
- Physics (8-12)
- Theater (all levels)
- Visual Arts (PreK-8 or 5-12)

If your desired license is not on this list, our program is likely not the right program for you, unless you are willing to obtain your license in one of the programs on the list, and later, apply with the state for your preferred license. *Please note: We do not offer a middle school science license at this time.*

Please choose your license carefully. Once you have applied to the program to pursue a licensure pathway, you **must** complete a practicum in that subject area **and** at that grade level. See the section of questions related to the practicum later in this document for more information.

I'm confused; I'm getting my elementary license in the arts. But this program is a secondary education program. What's up with that?

Don't worry! You're in the right program. Because the arts licenses for elementary school include the middle school grades, too, this is the right program for you. You will apply your learning in each of our courses to your teaching in an elementary, middle and/or high school.

I can't decide which license to pursue during the APB program. Any advice?

In good news, once you have completed the APB program and received your initial license in one content area/grade level, you can apply for another initial license *without completing another practicum or more coursework*. All you need to do is pass the subject MTEL for the second license and apply for the initial license [online here](#). The state will grant you a second (or third, or fourth...) initial license because you have completed the education coursework and teaching experience (practicum) already.

Therefore, we usually suggest that you...

- Choose a license area for which you have already completed substantial undergraduate coursework (or in which you earned your bachelor's degree) so that you are not required to take undergraduate courses in that subject while an APB student.
- Consider the most marketable license in terms of employment (in general, there are fewer teaching jobs available in the humanities/arts than in STEM fields). This can be important if you hope to be employed by the time you complete your APB practicum (see the Practicum Questions section of this document for more about this).
- Remember that when you choose a licensure area, you are committing to completing your practicum in that subject and within that grade level. For example, if you are already employed as a teacher in a middle school math classroom, do not choose a high school math license *unless you are willing to stop your middle school math job to complete a one-semester high school math practicum*. Instead, apply to the APB program for your middle school math license and, once you have finished the program and received your middle school math license, apply with the state for the high school math license.

When is the application deadline?

Applications for the APB Program are reviewed on a rolling basis; you can expect to know whether you have been accepted within 2-4 weeks of the completion of your application.

How do I apply for admission?

The online application and other admission information is available at <http://www.bridgew.edu/admissions/graduate/apply>

Please note that you need to have passed two MTEL tests to apply, unless this requirement has been temporarily waived due to the pandemic:

- A passing score on the subject matter test of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure® (MTEL).
- A passing score on the communication and literacy MTEL®

How much does the program cost?

Current program cost is available at the following link <http://www.bridgew.edu/admissions-aid/cost-attending>

How can I pay for the program?

The APB program is eligible for [unsubsidized student loans](#) and applicants are encouraged to complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#). For more specific questions, please visit the [Financial Aid Office website](#) or contact them directly at finaid@bridgew.edu.

My GPA is lower than 2.8. Is there still a way for me to get into the program?

Candidates with an undergraduate GPA below 2.8 should contact the Office of Graduate Admissions for a Low GPA Remedy.

Does the program support graduate assistantships?

Currently we do not have assistantships.

I used to be a student in the APB program and I'm returning to the program.

What do I need to do?

If you are returning to the APB program, please complete an application for reinstatement, available [online here](#). Contact the Office of Graduate Admissions with any questions you have.

I want to start taking courses, even though I am not yet accepted to the APB program. Are there courses I can take?

Yes! There are two courses you can take—EDLE 579 and SPED 510. However, taking these courses ahead of time will NOT shorten the time you spend in the APB program, as the two remaining courses—EDHM 571 and EDHM 572—cannot be taken during the same semester any longer. Please see the next section of this document—*What courses do I have to take?*—for more information.

APB Program Requirements & Courses

What courses do I have to take?

Beginning with fall 2020, APB students are required to take 4 courses and the semester-long student teaching practicum. The 4 courses are:

1. SPED 510 Teaching Exceptional Children in Schools
2. EDHM 571 Teaching and Learning (beginning spring 2021, this course must be taken *before* EDHM 572)
3. EDHM 572 Planning and Assessment (beginning spring 2021, this course can no longer be taken in the same semester as EDHM 571)

4. EDLE 579 The Education of Diverse Populations: Sheltered English Immersion*

* If you already have the SEI endorsement, you may take a different graduate course in education or your content area as approved by the APB Program Coordinator.

In addition, some students will also need to complete 1 or more content area courses, which will be determined as a part of the application process.

How long does it take to complete the program?

The APB program can be completed in 3 or more semesters; however, this depends on how many courses you take a semester. Some students take just 1 course per semester; most take 2 per semester and follow this course pattern:

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
<p>SPED 510 an online course</p>	<p>EDHM 572 a hybrid course (6 face-to-face meetings; majority online)</p>	<p>Practicum (EDHM 554 or 556)</p>
<p>EDHM 571 a hybrid course (6 face-to-face meetings; majority online)</p>	<p>EDLE 579 a face-to-face course (meets 1 evening/week)</p>	

During which semesters are courses offered?

See [this course offering schedule](#) for a list of our offerings. As you can see, all of our courses (except for the practicum) are offered fall, spring, and summer.

Please note that EDHM 571 and EDHM 572 cannot be taken together during the same semester nor the same summer.

Our program follows the University's Academic Calendar, available online [here](#).

If I want to take courses in the summer, can I do that?

You can! As you saw at the link above, we are offering all our courses (with the exception of the practicum) during the summertime.

If you have not yet begun our program and are planning to begin in the fall, you will need to apply as a "Non-Degree Student" to enroll in a summer course. (This is because you are not considered officially "enrolled" at BSU until you take a fall or spring semester course).

Non-Degree students may take up to six (6)—and only 6—credits prior to beginning the APB program.

To take a summer course before you begin in the fall and become officially enrolled, please complete this short application:

<https://www.bridgew.edu/graduate/grad-non-degree>

Once your non-degree application is processed, you will receive instructions from the Office of Graduate Admissions about how to register for the summer.

During what time of day are classes offered?

Face-to-face meetings occur in the evenings, beginning at 4:45 p.m., as most of our APB students work or teach full-time during the day. During the pandemic, all of our classes have been meeting online, with class sessions held virtually via Zoom.

Do I have to take the courses in a particular order?

EDHM 571 is a pre-requisite for EDHM 572. In addition, you may not take any courses during your semester-long practicum. All of your coursework must be completed in order for you to begin your practicum. There are not exceptions.

Do I have to complete observation hours for these courses?

You will be required to observe teaching in a school as part of the state requirements for your license. You will do so during EDHM 571, EDHM 572, and EDLE 579. Please discuss specifics with your course instructors, as each course has different requirements and/or assignments for those hours.

I am trying to register for courses, but I can't find some of them in Infobear. Where are they?

You will find EDHM 571 and 572 under "Education: HS, MS, PreK-12" in Infobear. All EDHM courses are found there.

SPED 510 is under "Special Education" in InfoBear (for all SPED courses).

EDLE 579 is under "Educational Leadership" in InfoBear (for all EDLE courses).

I already have my SEI endorsement. Do I still need to take EDLE 579?

You do not. If you received SEI endorsement already, please contact the coordinator to process a waiver which will remove the EDLE 579 course from your list of required courses.

How many credits is the program?

Each course is worth 3 credits and the practicum is worth 6 credits for a total of 18 credits.

Are there any other APB Program requirements?

Yes. You must meet the state's competency for digital literacy prior to beginning your practicum.

We are providing you with a few options for meeting this requirement; you will choose one and submit proof of its completion when you apply for your practicum. You will complete the option you choose outside of a particular course and on your own time.

The options for digital literacy are:

- Google Educator Level 1 Training (about 13 hours online); requires \$10 test fee
- Google Educator Level II Training (about 13 hours online); requires \$25 test fee
- Apple Teacher Training (about 16 hours online for 8 badges); no fee
- Professional development workshops or graduate coursework within last 5 years equivalent to 15 hours; certificate(s) of participation required

Content-Specific Course Requirements

Will I have to take courses in my licensure field/content area?

It depends. When you apply, your undergraduate transcript will be reviewed to determine if you have completed all the coursework in your content area required by the state. If you have, you will not need to take content area courses. If you have not, you will be notified about which courses you will need to take for licensure and for completion of the APB program.

You can conduct your own audit of your transcript before you apply to get an idea of whether or not you will need to take content courses. Take a look at the content courses that will be required at the Secondary APB Content Course Requirements page at [the online link here](#).

I just received my APB Program acceptance and the letter lists the course(s) I need to complete in my content area. Do I have to take these courses at BSU?

No—you may take your courses at BSU, but that is not required. You can take courses at any accredited 4-year institution. Note that the APB Program is now requiring its students to take 300-level content courses or higher whenever it is feasible to do so. If you are concerned about whether the

course meets the APB requirements, contact the APB coordinator with questions.

I just received my APB Program acceptance and the letter lists the course(s) I need to complete in my content area. Does this mean it will take me longer to complete the program?

Most likely, yes. If you plan to complete the courses at BSU, you can contact your content area/department's Chairperson via email to determine when the courses you need to take are offered so that you can make wise decisions about when to complete the courses. Or you can look for online courses available from other four-year accredited institutions.

Practicum Questions

Do I have to complete my practicum in the grade level in which I am seeking an initial license?

You do! Whatever content area and grade level you specified when you applied to the APB program is your guide. You *must* complete a practicum in both that subject *and* that grade level.

An example: You applied to the APB program last year for the biology (8-12) license. In the meantime, you've found a job as a middle school science teacher. You cannot complete your practicum as a middle school science teacher, because it a) does not match the subject/grade level with which you applied to the APB program, and b) is not a license offered by the APB program.

Or: You applied to the APB program last year for the biology (8-12) license. In the meantime, you've found a job as a high school physics teacher. You cannot complete your practicum as a high school physics teacher, because it does not match the subject with which you applied to the APB program.

I see there are 2 options for the practicum—a typical student teaching practicum (EDHM 554), and an employment-based practicum (EDHM 556). What is the difference?

You can complete the employment-based practicum (EDHM 556) and use your full-time teaching job as your practicum if...

- you are employed as a full-time teacher of record and *not* as an aide, paraprofessional, or other kind of assistant or administrator
- you are teaching within the license area (content *and* grade level) for which you are completing the APB program

Confused about if you can apply for the employment-based practicum?

Consider this example: You are in the APB program to receive your English 5-12 license. You are hired as a long-term substitute teacher in English in a high school at the time of your practicum. You can apply for an employment-based practicum because you are teaching English within the grade levels of the license you seek.

Here is a non-example: You are in the APB program for your Chemistry 8-12 license. You are hired as a long-term substitute teacher in middle school science. You **cannot** apply for an employment-based practicum because you are not teaching chemistry and you are not teaching within the grade levels of the license you seek.

If you cannot apply for the employment-based practicum, you will apply for the traditional practicum (EDHM 554), which is a full-time, five-day-per-week unpaid teaching internship in a public school for one semester. *For some students, this may mean you will need to take a leave from other employment to complete the practicum.*

Is it true that I might be able to find a teaching job even before I finish my APB program and then complete the employment-based practicum?

It is true! If you have passed your MTEs already, you can apply with DESE for your provisional license. You may be able to find a teaching position or a long-term substitute position with a provisional license. And if you do, you can be teaching (and getting paid!) and complete an employment-based practicum. Read more about DESE's licensure requirements [online here](#). To apply for a license, [visit this website](#).

When do I need to apply for the teaching practicum?

APB students are required to apply for their practicum for two reasons. First, it signals to our department that you believe you are ready to student teach. Second, it allows us to conduct an audit of your coursework and digital literacy competency to be sure you have met the requirements for student teaching.

The deadline to apply for the spring semester practicum is the end of September and the end of February for the fall semester practicum. The online application is available in August/September and January/February on the CEAS intranet homepage <https://my.bridgew.edu/departments/ELCE/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Failure to meet the application deadline will result in the delay of your practicum.

Please be sure to complete the practicum application during your last semester of coursework in the APB program. Even though you are not yet finished all

your classes, if you are assuming you will finish that semester, you should apply.

Please note: You must have completed all your coursework to begin your practicum.

Other FAQs

Do I need to purchase an iPad or tablet?

While the College of Education requires its students to purchase an iPad or tablet, we do not enforce this requirement in the APB Program. Most students find it helpful to own a laptop or cell phone for using technology in our face-to-face classes; you will not be asked to use an iPad or tablet in our courses.

After I complete the APB program, I want to apply to the MAT program for my master's degree. Do any APB courses transfer to the MAT?

No. The APB program is designed to provide you with an initial license, which is a pre-requisite for the MAT program. Although some APB courses may look similar to MAT courses, the MAT courses are more advanced. As a result, the education courses you take in the APB courses cannot be applied to the MAT. *Please note: This policy changed as a result of the new DESE requirements for initial licensure; students matriculating in the APB, MAT, or non-licensure PreK-12 M.Ed. for fall 2021 and beyond may not substitute APB courses for MAT courses.*

Is it true that I can be licensed before I finish the APB Program?

Yes. Many of our APB students, after passing their MTEL exams, obtain their provisional license. The provisional license allows you to begin teaching full-time, especially as a long-term substitute teacher. The license is good for just five years and is not as marketable as an initial license is; therefore, we cannot guarantee a provisional license will result in your employment.

Once you complete the APB Program, your provisional license would be upgraded to the initial license. Read more about DESE's licensure requirements [online here](#). To apply for a license, [visit this website](#).