

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.

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:

- 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 coming back. What do I need to do to continue in the program?

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.

APB Program Requirements

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
3. EDHM 572 Planning and Assessment
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
SPED 510 an online course	EDHM 572 a hybrid course (6 face-to-face meetings; majority online)	Practicum (EDHM 554 or 556)
EDHM 571 a hybrid course (6 face-to-face meetings; majority online)	EDLE 579 a face-to-face course (meets 1 evening/week)	

During which semesters are courses offered?

All APB courses are offered during both the fall and spring semesters. In the summer, the only available courses at this time is EDLE 579 and SPED 510.

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

When 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.

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.

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

You do not. If you received SEI endorsement through a non-graduate-credit-course, you will need to take another 3-credit course in graduate education or in your content area, and this course must be approved by the APB Coordinator. Please contact the coordinator with your course request.

If you have taken a graduate-level SEI course for which you have already received credit, you can substitute that course for EDLE 579; forms for substitution are available in the APB folder under "Forms You May Need."

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

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.*

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 teacher. 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 of 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?

Yes, just one! EDHM 571, Teaching & Learning in Middle and High Schools, can transfer to the MAT Program and replace EDMC 538, The Professional Teacher.

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.