

The Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure® (MTEL®) program was initiated by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in 1998 as part of the statewide education reform initiative for educators seeking licenses. The MTEL program includes tests of communication and literacy skills as well as tests of subject matter knowledge.

Elementary Education majors take the following three tests:

1. The Communication and Literacy Skills test consists of two subtests: reading and writing. The reading subtest contains multiple-choice items in the areas of meaning of words and phrases in context; main idea; writer's purpose; relationship among ideas; critical reasoning; outlining; summarizing; and graph interpretation. The writing subtest contains multiple-choice items in the areas of establishing and maintaining a main idea; common errors of sentence construction; grammar; usage; spelling; capitalization; and punctuation. The short-answer items require the revision of sentences to correct errors. The two open-response items are summary and composition exercises.
2. The Foundation of Reading Test consists of both open-response and multiple-choice questions. The multiple-choice questions cover the subareas (foundation of reading development, development of reading comprehension, reading assessment and instruction, and integration of knowledge and understanding). The open-response items may relate to topics covered in any of the subareas, and will typically require breadth of understanding of the field and the ability to relate concepts from different aspects of the field. Responses to the open-response items are expected to be accurate and appropriate in the application of subject-matter knowledge, to provide high-quality and relevant supporting evidence, and to provide a soundness of argument and understanding of the field.
3. The General Curriculum test consists of two subtests: the multi-subject subtest (language arts, history and social science, and science and technology/engineering) and the mathematics subtest. The multi-subject test has three subtests: language arts, history and social science, and science and technology/engineering. The mathematics test has four subtests: numbers and operations, functions and algebra, geometry and measurements, and statistics and probability.

The Education Department recommends that elementary education majors take the Communication and Literacy test by the end of the freshmen year; the Foundation of Reading test by the end of the sophomore year; and the General Curriculum test by the end of the junior year. All application resources, preparation materials, and test schedules are available on the [Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure® \(MTEL®\)](http://www.mtel.nesinc.com) web page or in the Education Department on the Ground Floor of Emerson Hall. You can register online, by phone, or by mail at <http://www.mtel.nesinc.com/register.asp>.

To register for a MTEL test, you will need the following information:

- Name
- Address
- Home telephone number
- Date of birth
- Social security number
- Email address (required for Internet registration)
- Primary language
- Ethnicity (optional)
- Gender (optional)
- License category (refer to “Licensure Information”)
- Specific license sought