



University of  
Massachusetts Amherst

## *Secondary Teacher Education Program in Science*

### **Subject Matter Knowledge Advising**

The Secondary Teacher Education Program (STEP) prepares students for the Massachusetts Initial License in the sciences at the middle or high school level. The program is open to undergraduates, to students who have completed an undergraduate degree and are seeking licensure only (Post BA/BS), to graduate students seeking licensure and a Master's degree, or to graduate students enrolled in other colleges of the University. Applications, a program description, and initial advising for this program are available in the STEP Information Office in Furcolo Hall room 121B, tel: (413) 545-4397, or email: [stepadv@educ.umass.edu](mailto:stepadv@educ.umass.edu)

The University recommends students for licensure in five content areas in science: biology, chemistry, earth science, general science, and physics. There is a separate subject matter knowledge advising form for each area.

Undergraduates should seek an appointment at the STEP information office early in their programs to plan their course of study so that they can meet the state subject matter requirements. Post BA/BS Licensure students and Master's students should meet with an advisor at the STEP information office as soon as possible upon arriving on campus to determine what additional course work they will need to complete to fulfill subject matter requirements. Please take a copy of your transcripts to the meeting with the adviser. All students must normally complete their subject matter requirements before student teaching. The semester before

student teaching, prospective student teachers must include in their student teaching application a copy of their subject matter requirements signed by Professor Allan Feldman, the STEP faculty adviser for students seeking middle or high school initial licensure in Science.

Undergraduates must take and pass the Communication and Literacy portion of the Massachusetts Test for Educators Licensure (MTEL) as a pre-requisite for admission to the program. Post BA/BS and graduate candidates must pass the Communication and Literacy portion normally in their first semester in the program and before student teaching. To be eligible to student teach all candidates must first pass the appropriate subject matter portion of the MTEL. The subject test is based on the state content needs for your individual subject area requirements, therefore candidates must plan this component of their program carefully. Students can obtain information about the MTEL from the Massachusetts Department of Education website: <http://www.doe.mass.edu>.

Professor Feldman's office is located in Room 227B, Furcolo Hall,  
Tel. 413-545-1570.  
E-mail address: [afeldman@educ.umass.edu](mailto:afeldman@educ.umass.edu).  
<http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~afeldman>