



# Fact Sheet

## Graduate Certificate in Special Education with a Concentration in Transition Leadership

### In our program, you will learn to:

- Support students with disabilities during their transition from high school to postsecondary activities
- Assist young adults living with disabilities to lead more independent lives
- Develop advocacy skills to influence state and national disability policies

### What is the Transition Leadership Program?

The University of Massachusetts Boston Transition Leadership Program is an accredited transition specialist training program approved by the Division of Career Development and Transition (DCDT) of the Council for Exceptional Children. It is an approved program of study for students who are interested in pursuing the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Transition Specialist Endorsement.

This program prepares students for a Graduate Certificate in Special Education with a focus on Transition Services. The courses align with DCDT's professional transition specialist standards. A master's track is also available.

### Who can apply?

Do you work with students with disabilities and have regular access to secondary schools? We are currently recruiting anyone who wants to obtain an education specialist endorsement in transition services from the following fields:

- licensed special educators
- certified vocational rehabilitation counselors
- guidance counselors
- school adjustment counselors
- school social workers

Additionally, community rehabilitation providers and other related services staff are eligible for the university certificate but cannot receive the state or national endorsement.

Generally, applicants have a master's degree in one of these fields.

### What does the Transition Leadership Program certification curriculum involve?

In our 5-course, semester-long practicum, you will learn skills to help students with disabilities ages 14–22 focus on employment, college preparation, and independent living. You will also develop the leadership skills necessary to promote system-wide transition supports and services in your school district. The curriculum includes online course work, applied learning opportunities, and field-based support.

### Core courses

SPE G 654	Youth Development and Self-Determination
SPE G 657	Transition Topics
SPE G 655	Career Development and Competitive Employment
SPE G 656	Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities
SPE G 658	Transition Leadership
SPE G 693	Practicum: Transition Leadership

### What happens after I graduate from the program?

You can expect to find employment opportunities in secondary schools, transition programs, and college programs that support transition-age students with disabilities.

### How can I apply?

1. First, contact Program Director Maria Paiewonsky by phone at (617) 233-8743 or by email at [maria.paiewonsky@umb.edu](mailto:maria.paiewonsky@umb.edu) to schedule an initial interview.
2. After the interview, we will invite you to [submit a full application to the Office of Graduate Admissions](#). The full application includes:
  - a. A letter of intent, explaining your reasons for pursuing a graduate study in the field of Transition Leadership.
  - b. Your college transcripts with grade point average. A minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0 is required for admission to the program.
  - c. Two letters of recommendation by persons who are knowledgeable about supporting students with disabilities, who have worked closely with you, and who have direct knowledge of your transition skills and academic performance.
  - d. Your license information certifying that you are an initially licensed special educator, school guidance counselor, school adjustment counselor, school social worker, or vocational rehabilitation counselor.
  - e. A writing sample, indicating your ability to write in a clear, concise, and professional manner. This sample may be in the form of a recent term paper and should demonstrate how you are a thoughtful and responsive educator, committed to change for social justice. It should also exemplify the experiences or values in your life that match this philosophy.

**Apply by June 15 for Fall admission.**

**[Visit the UMass Boston School for Global Inclusion & Social Development website to learn more about the Transition Leadership Program!](#)**