

TRANSITION LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION

BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND THE ADULT WORLD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.



You can do so many things with this certificate. I like that I could choose this path of transition leadership without narrowing my focus.

-Laura Newton Moynagh
Transition Specialist
Somerville Public Schools

What does “transition leadership” really mean?

Transition leadership involves supporting young people with a wide range of disabilities as they make the transition from high school to adult life. Our endorsement program bridges the gap between special education and adult services by creating a cohort of professionals who connect these two fields.

- » Professionals who complete the five courses in the certificate track, or the 10 courses in the Master's track, including hands-on field assignments and a practicum requirement, will be well positioned to excel in a new role: that of transition specialist.
- » Massachusetts residents completing our certificate are eligible for the Massachusetts Transition Specialist Endorsement (603 CMR 7.04(2)(c)).
- » It's convenient and flexible.
- » You can take all courses online, with experienced transition specialists and leaders and you can complete the practicum at a location convenient to you (even at your own workplace).

Who are we looking for?

This certificate program is ideal for professionals working in transition-related fields, for example:

- » Special educators
- » Rehabilitation counselors
- » Special education administrators
- » Guidance counselors
- » School social workers
- » School adjustment counselors

Our certificate program is an excellent way for professionals to broaden their abilities and to place their work in a wider context.



I really enjoyed the course and have already become a better transition coordinator because of their instruction.

**-Transition Leadership scholar,
anonymous course evaluation**

What can you do with this certificate?

Transition leadership involves working with school and community professionals and families to support young people and to improve post-school outcomes in areas such as employment, college preparation, and independent living skills. Graduates are also equipped to help influence state and national policy around transition and disability. They are working as teachers and transition specialists in school districts and educational collaboratives, at community provider agencies, and in local vocational rehabilitation offices.

Hands-on experience in the field

In conjunction with required coursework, our certificate's fieldwork and practicum components are additional assets to the program. Both features give students the opportunity for hands-on mentoring and supervision in a transition setting of interest to them, and the chance to bring course knowledge to real-life experiences.

After completing this certificate program, you'll be able to:

- » Individualize transition services by facilitating person-centered plans
- » Prepare students to lead their own transition meetings
- » Write effective individualized education programs (IEPs) and Transition Planning Forms (TPFs) for transition-age students
- » Create a career development plan and portfolio for and with transition-age students
- » Coach students with disabilities for college, including disability and accommodation documentation
- » Develop community-based transition services and supports
- » Establish and facilitate transition teams to promote systemic transition supports
- » Demonstrate knowledge of federal and state transition-related laws and policies

Our graduates are also well equipped to:

- » Conduct transition services assessments
- » Create transition materials and information sessions for families/colleagues
- » Form long-range and short-range plans for transition services in a school or district
- » Establish a school/district interagency transition team
- » Build interagency transition team goals
- » Collaborate with colleagues to develop individualized transition plans
- » Offer transition-related professional development to colleagues



Grace Quiah (L), inclusive dual enrollment student, and Annie Thorell (R), educational coach. Worcester Public Schools

Apply by June 1 for fall admission.

To learn more:

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Caron Heller, Transition Specialist, Attleboro Public Schools.
Escorting student to local One-Stop Career Center.



Jan Steininger, teacher and Amanda Dubuc,
inclusive dual enrollment student.
South Hadley Public Schools.



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and Social Development**

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