According to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), there is a critical shortage of teachers in the state's 24 districts. In response, the State of Maryland has developed several exciting incentive programs to recruit and retain quality teachers. For detailed information on incentive programs, visit the MSDE web page.

The College of Education shares MSDE's concern about the teacher shortage. We believe that the best way to increase the number of teachers is to offer multiple pathways for teacher certification. The College offers a variety of programs in early childhood, elementary, special education, and secondary education. Offerings vary from minor and certificate programs to double majors and combined Bachelor's/Master's programs.

○ Early Childhood Teacher Certification Program Options

The Department of Human Development offers an undergraduate program that is designed for students seeking certification to teach pre-K through grade three. Because early childhood teachers are expected to provide an inclusive, developmental education, content courses include psychology, science, math, music, and arts. The Early Childhood program includes Selective Admissions and is a Limited Enrollment Program (LEP), which admits students on a space-available basis. For additional information on the LEP, check out the Gateway Requirements for Early Childhood and Elementary Education Programs. For a more detailed description of the Early Childhood program, visit this site.

○ Elementary Education Teacher Certification Program Options

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction offers undergraduate and graduate programs that lead to teacher certification in Elementary Education.

- The undergraduate program is intended for students seeking certification to teach grades 1-6 and Middle School. Because elementary teachers are generalists in a sense, content courses consist of a broad distribution of liberal arts classes (e.g., science, mathematics, history, social sciences, music, arts). This program also includes an eighteen-credit Area of Emphasis, which allows students to acquire some depth in a specific curricular area and prepares them to teach this area of study in a departmentalized setting and/or middle school. The Elementary Education program includes Selective Admissions and is a Limited Enrollment Program (LEP), which admits students on a space-available basis. For additional information on the LEP, check out the Gateway Requirements for Early Childhood and Elementary Education Programs. For a more detailed description of the undergraduate Elementary Education program, see Undergraduate Majors.

- The graduate program is a master's degree certification program that allows students who have bachelor degrees in a content area (e.g., history, math, science) to complete a master's level program within one calendar year: Students enroll in the summer and graduate with a master's degree and certification to teach the following summer. This pathway is intended for graduates and career changers with content area degrees. For detailed information see the EDCI web site, or phone the department office 301-405-
Special Education Teacher Certification Program Options

The Department of Special Education offers undergraduate and graduate programs that lead to teacher certification in Special Education.

- The undergraduate program is a five-year, 150 credit hour course of study that prepares teachers who can successfully assume the increasingly complex and sophisticated responsibilities of a teacher of students with disabilities. The program provides a solid foundation in generic special education followed by an intense specialization phase in one of three age levels: early childhood special education, elementary special education, or secondary/middle school special education. Within each age-based specialization, students are prepared to teach individuals with mild to severe disabilities, across disability categories. Distinctive features include selective admissions, integrated coursework and extensive field experiences, and graduate credit for scholastically eligible students. For a more detailed description of the undergraduate special education program, see Undergraduate Majors.

- The graduate program is a performance-based certification program that leads to a Master of Arts (MA) or Masters of Education (MEd) degree. Specialization areas include Secondary/Transition Special Education, Severe Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, Behavior Disorders, and Early Childhood Special Education. For more information, see the EDSP website.

Secondary Education Teacher Certification Program Options

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction (EDCI) offers a wide array of programs for people interested in obtaining secondary education teacher certification. Some of the EDCI programs are designed for students who are still exploring whether teaching is an appropriate career path for them. Other programs are intended for people who already have confirmed their choice to pursue a teaching career. An overview of the program offerings follows:

- The Dual Major option, which is designed for incoming freshmen or sophomores, leads to the Bachelor’s degree with a major in an academic content area plus a second major in secondary education. All secondary majors are required to have an academic content major which satisfies the requirements of the academic department and meets the standards for teacher certification. Candidates who follow the proposed sequencing of courses can complete both majors in four years with careful advisement and scheduling.

- The Minor in Secondary Education provides opportunities for undergraduate subject area majors to enroll in a sequence of education courses that helps them to determine if teaching is a viable career option for them. The 15-18 credit minor may be taken prior to admission into a teacher preparation program. If an undergraduate student pursuing or completing the minor desires to enter an education track, the candidate must apply for the dual major program to obtain certification as a secondary education classroom teacher through completion of a Maryland State Department of Education approved program option. Some of the courses students take to complete the Minor in Secondary Education may also be applicable in certification options at the graduate level offered through the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. These students should consult with an advisor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction to identify the most appropriate option leading to teacher certification and to review the specific admission requirements associated with these programs.

- The Certificate Program requires completion of an academic major, including coursework specific to meet certification standards in the certificate area, and a bachelor’s degree in an approved academic content area, plus the completion of a certificate program in secondary education to meet requirements in UM’s approved
program for MSDE certification. Selected coursework from the Minor in Secondary Education may be taken prior to admission to the Certificate Program option.

- The **Five-Year Integrated Master's with Certification Program** (requirements are under review), which is intended for content majors entering the junior or senior year, is for talented students with a minimum GPA of 3.0 who seek to combine undergraduate studies in the content area and professional education as a foundation for a focused professional year at the graduate level leading to secondary-level certification in the subject field and the Master’s of Education degree. As undergraduates, admitted students complete their baccalaureate degrees with a major in the relevant content area and a minimum of 12 credits in professional education studies related to teacher certification requirements. In their fifth year, they enroll in a full-year internship and complete graduate-level professional studies that make them eligible for teacher certification and the master’s of education degree.

- **Master’s Certification Program**
  The Master’s Certification Program allows students who have bachelor degrees in content areas (e.g., history, mathematics, science) to complete a master’s level program within one calendar year. Students enroll in the summer and graduate with a master’s degree and eligibility for certification to teach the following summer. This pathway is intended for highly talented graduates and career changers with content area degrees. For detailed information, see the [EDCI web site](http://www.education.umd.edu/studentinfo/teacher_certification/teachercertification.html) or phone the department office (301/405-3118).