TEACHER LICENSURE AND EDUCATION

Options for MIT students interested in teaching elementary or secondary school range from exploratory activities such as tutoring and participation in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/undergraduate-education/academic-research-options/undergraduate-research-opportunities-program) to an official teacher certification program.

For students who wish to explore teaching as a career (in the short or long term), the MIT/Wellesley Scheller Teacher Education Program (STEP) (http://education.mit.edu), housed in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, offers instruction to meet the requirements for Massachusetts State Teacher Certification in math and science at the middle and high school levels (and can be transferred to many other states). Courses offered through STEP are also useful for students preparing to teach at the college level, as well as those who wish to apply their work to related research fields such as curriculum design or educational technology. Those going into industry find that STEP training can apply to workforce development, training, leadership, and mentoring within a company.

Education subjects that focus on math/science teaching at the secondary level (grades 5-12) are offered through Course 11 Urban Studies and Planning. To receive Massachusetts State Teacher Certification, students must complete 300 hours of supervised practice teaching and additional coursework at MIT, or through Wellesley College. A HASS concentration in Urban Studies with emphasis in education is offered as part of the undergraduate curriculum.

To explore K-12 teaching opportunities less formally, students may volunteer as tutors or teacher assistants in local schools, design and teach classes through the Educational Studies Program (https://esp.mit.edu/learn), or work with faculty members who conduct research in schools. (Refer to the UROP Directory for a list of faculty members interested in such research.) Other groups that can help identify similar opportunities on campus are the Student Services Center, Room 11-120; the Public Service Center, Room 3-123; the Edgerton Center, Room 4-408; the MIT Museum, 265 Massachusetts Ave; and MIT Global Education and Career Development, Room E39-305.