



**New State Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) Requirement  
For Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Core-Subject Teachers**

March 1, 2013

Dear Education Coordinate Major, Minor and PBTL Students:

I write to let you know about important changes to the requirements for Massachusetts teachers with respect to teaching English Language Learners. These changes will affect Framingham State University Education students in different ways, depending on whether you complete your program before or after July 2014. The new regulations require a course which will improve teachers' ability to teach English Language Learners well.

Background:

The number of children who arrive at public schools speaking languages other than English has grown more than fifty percent during the past decade. English Language Learners face different challenges in comparison to native English speakers when it comes to succeeding in schools. They experience the largest gap in academic proficiency compared to peers whose first language is English. Their dropout rate is the highest of all student subgroups. Last summer the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) implemented new regulations for teachers and teacher education programs to improve support for English Language learners.

The new regulations are:

1. As of July 1, 2014, all candidates for an Initial teaching license as a core academic teacher must receive a "Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) Endorsement" to receive their Initial teaching license from the state. SEI is an approach to teaching which makes content material comprehensible and accessible to English Language Learners. Core academic teachers include Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education teachers of English, Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, History, History/Government/Geography and the Sciences. It also includes Special Education teachers.
2. As of June 1, 2013, all colleges and universities with teacher preparation programs in Massachusetts must have a state approved "SEI Endorsement" program – a course which covers the new state standards for the SEI endorsement.
3. All currently licensed core academic teachers also will need to earn the SEI endorsement by July, 2016.

At Framingham State University, our SEI endorsement program will include a course which will cover current theories and applications related to teaching English Language Learners, English language structure, cultural and social issues facing English Language Learners, and how teachers can strengthen students' language learning while they learn subject matter content. That course, which is currently being developed, will be offered through the Education Department. It will be titled EDUC XXX (number to be determined) Sheltered English Immersion.

What this means for Framingham State University (FSU) Students:

1. Students in FSU programs leading to Initial licensure in core fields (Early Childhood, Elementary Education, Secondary Education in English, Mathematics, History and Sciences) who will complete their degrees and licensure programs after July 1, 2014 should take the EDUC XXX (number to be determined) Sheltered English Immersion course. If you take this course, you will receive an SEI endorsement, along with an endorsement for your teaching license.
2. Students who complete their degrees and programs before the July 1, 2014 deadline, are still advised to take that course. We will commence offering the course in Fall 2013. The days and times that the course will be offered in Fall 2013 include:

Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.

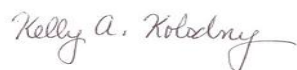
Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.

Even if you aren't required to have the SEI Endorsement before you graduate, you will need to get the endorsement eventually, as a teacher, sometime before 2016.

The new Sheltered English Immersion course will prepare you to teach English Language Learners and gain the SEI endorsement you will need. Additional information about the new Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) requirements also may be found on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website. You may visit the Rethinking Equity and Teaching for English Language Learners (RETELL) site at the following link: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/retell/>. Please speak with the Framingham State University Education Department faculty, your department chairs, and advisors if you have any questions about this new requirement.

Sincerely,



Kelly Kolodny,  
Chair, Education Department