

Council on Teacher Education

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Overview of Licensure Phases and Processes

The Council on Teacher Education (CTE) is the professional education unit for the University of Illinois at Chicago responsible for coordinating Professional Educator Licensure (PEL) programs and maintaining the State of Illinois Licensure requirements.

Decisions about licensure are a joint effort of a candidate's program, the Council on Teacher Education (CTE), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The program coordinator and faculty have the main responsibility for ensuring that candidates are prepared to become licensed teachers and are, thus, entitled to apply for licensure. They approve qualifications before the CTE begins its process of evaluation. The CTE's licensure officer entitles an individual to apply for a license at the state level. The CTE checks that candidates have met state requirements, such as passing the required state-level tests and completing the course, assessment, and grade requirements stipulated by the program as addressing state objectives. ISBE makes the final decision about whether or not a candidate receives licensure based upon the information it receives from the institution and a candidate's application.

CTE serves programs in the College of Education, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts, the College of Nursing, and the Jane Addams College of Social Work.

Admission to Candidacy

To be eligible for candidacy, candidates must meet the following criteria:

1. Completed General Education course work; earned a minimum cumulative GPA as specified by the program, including transfer credits; and completed professional education requirements.
2. Completed the minimum number of clock hours of fieldwork specified by the program and as part of the professional education course work.
3. Passed an Illinois-approved test of basic skills. Approved tests consist of the Illinois Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP), ACT, or SAT with approved scores.
 - a. To use an ACT score in lieu of the TAP, the following criteria must be met:
 - i ACT composite score must be at least 22; **and**
 - ii ACT combined English/Writing score must be at least 19 for tests prior to September 2015; or

- iii ACT writing score must be at least 16 for tests taken September 2015 to September 8, 2016; or
- iv ACT writing score must be at least 6 for tests taken September 9, 2016 or after.

- b. To use an SAT score in lieu of the TAP, the following criteria must be met:
 - i SAT combined score (critical reading and math) of at least 1030 and SAT writing score of at least 450 for tests taken **prior** to March 5, 2016.
 - ii SAT combined score (evidence-based reading and writing plus mathematics) of at least 1110 and a minimum score of 26 on writing and language tests for tests taken **on or after** March 5, 2016.

4. Completed all other requirements as specified by the program.

Admission to Student Teaching

To be eligible for student teaching, candidates must meet the following criteria:

1. Completed General Education course work; earned a minimum cumulative GPA as specified by the program in all course work, including transfer credits; completed professional education requirements with a minimum as specified by the program; and completed course work in their teaching field with a GPA as specified in their program.
2. Completed the minimum number of clock hours of fieldwork specified by the program and as part of the professional education course work.
3. Passed the Illinois Content Area Test in the teaching field if student teaching will occur.
4. Submitted a student teaching application before the deadline during the spring term of the academic year preceding the student teaching experience.
5. Submitted verification of a negative TB test.^a This test must be taken early enough to submit the results with the application (it may take up to four weeks to get the results).
6. Completed the Chicago Public Schools registration process, which includes a criminal background check.^a
7. Met any additional requirements as specified within each program.

^a *Teacher candidates are responsible for bearing the expense of the TB test and the criminal background check.*

Entitlement to Illinois State Licensure

To become licensed, candidates must have done the following:

1. Met all requirements for graduation in their home college.
2. Completed all early field experiences.
3. Completed and passed all assessments including all licensure exams and the Illinois Content Test.
4. Successfully completed student teaching.
5. Completed and filed a licensure application and any related endorsement requests with the Council on Teacher Education.
6. Passed the Illinois Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT).
7. Passed the edTPA.
8. Completed and submitted an exit survey.

Illinois Licensure Test Requirements

Before the license is issued, the candidate must also pass a series of examinations required by the Illinois State Board of Education. The Illinois Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) or ACT/SAT (in lieu of TAP) must be passed prior to applying for candidacy with the Council on Teacher Education.^b

All tests are valid indefinitely. The Illinois Content Area Test must be passed before the candidate is allowed to student teach. The Assessment of Professional Teaching must be passed prior to licensure. Lastly, a teaching license is not issued until a student passes the final performance assessment, the EdTPA.

For information on application procedures, contact the Council on Teacher Education located at 1333 S. Halsted, Suite 205.

Effective March 2003, Illinois "Approved Program Verification" forms and applications for Illinois teaching licenses will no longer be signed based solely on completion of a teacher education program if that program was completed more than three years prior to the verification request. The faculty in relevant colleges and departments will evaluate the records of program completers based on UIC's current program requirements and make recommendations regarding licensure.

The Illinois State Board of Education occasionally changes the requirements for licensure. For current information, contact the academic advisor in the major field of study or the Council on Teacher Education.

^b Candidates must meet the applicable numerical passing scores that were in place at the time the test was taken.

Secondary Education Program

The University of Illinois at Chicago offers several secondary teacher education programs located in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS). Through LAS, the student can study the Teaching of English, Teaching of French, Teaching of German, Teaching of History, Teaching of Mathematics, and Teaching of Spanish. The programs provide for the development of a major field of study with an emphasis on teaching. Please consult the home college for more information about these degree requirements.

At the undergraduate level, the College of Education offers the BA in Urban Education leading to the State of Illinois Professional Educator Licensure in grades 1-6 with the option of adding grades 5-8 only.

Licensure in the teaching of biology, chemistry, physics, environmental science, or earth and space sciences is available through the College of Education in the MEd in Instructional Leadership: Science Education.

Contact the appropriate department for more information on content specific programs.

Middle School Endorsement for Secondary Education Programs

Teacher candidates wishing to teach in the middle grades (5–8) should take additional course work, even though the Standard Secondary License states eligibility for teaching in grades 6–12. Please note that the State of Illinois is in the process of revising middle school endorsement requirements and additional course work may be required. Be advised that changes may occur without notice and will be effective immediately. Additional information may be obtained from the College of Education Office of Student Services, 3145 ETMSW, (312) 996-4532. For information on how the middle grades can be added to the Grades 1-6

Professional Educator License, please consult the BA in Urban Education in the *Department of Curriculum and Instruction* section of the catalog.