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

**Admission to Candidacy**

- Completed General Education course work; earned a minimum cumulative GPA as specified by the program, including transfer credits; and completed professional education requirements.
- Completed the minimum number of clock hours of fieldwork specified by the program and as part of the professional education course work.
- Passed an Illinois-approved test of basic skills. Approved tests consist of the ACT or SAT with approved scores.
  - To use an ACT score, the following criteria must be met:
    - ACT composite score must be at least 22; and
    - ACT combined English/Writing score must be at least 19 for tests prior to September 2015; or
    - ACT writing score must be at least 16 for tests taken September 8, 2016 or after.
  - To use an SAT score, the following criteria must be met:
    - 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.
    - 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.
- Completed and filed a licensure application and any related endorsement requests with the Council on Teacher Education.
- Met any additional requirements as specified within each program.

**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 edTPA.
7. 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 ACT or SAT and any alternative test of basic skills as defined by the Illinois State Board of Education, must be passed prior to gaining full admission to 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. 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.

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

\(^b\) **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.**