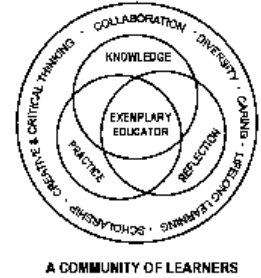




Northern Illinois University



Secondary Teaching in Biology Educator Licensure Requirements

Individuals wishing to receive a license to teach biology at the secondary level have a number of program options. Although a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology is required to qualify for the program, it is not necessary to complete a degree program at NIU at the same time as completing licensure requirements. With one or two possible exceptions, it is strongly suggested that all the professional education requirements be completed at NIU. Candidates successfully completing the educator licensure program in biology will earn a license to teach secondary science (grades 6-12) with a primary endorsement in biology. An endorsement to teach middle school science is included in the program as well.

Admission to the Secondary Science Educator Licensure Program

Potential candidates must be admitted to NIU to be admitted to the licensure program. If they are not admitted to the program, they cannot take the required courses in the program nor can they be recommended by NIU for licensure. Before potential candidates can be officially admitted, they must pass the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP). Information regarding the TAP may be found at the following web site:
http://www.il.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/IL400_TestPage.html.

Potential candidates have the following choices of student classification.

Undergraduate: Choose this option if not in possession of a college degree. Potential candidates must declare the biology major and pursue educator certification in biology.

Post-Graduate: If potential candidates already have an appropriate bachelor's degree in biology and intend to only pursue educator certification, not an advanced degree, they may wish to enroll as a post-graduate. Post-graduates are classified as undergraduate students, thus they do not have the ability to enroll in graduate level courses. Potential candidates may choose to pursue this option if they need to take undergraduate biology courses to fulfill academic or program deficiencies. It is possible to switch status from post-graduate to student at large or graduate student. Candidates cannot switch back once you have done so.

Student-at-Large: Choose this option if in possession of a bachelor's degree and wish to be able to take some courses for graduate credit. Potential candidates pursue this option when they are unsure of whether or not they wish to pursue a Masters Degree or if they don't have time to complete the lengthy application process for admission to a graduate program as a graduate student. It is always possible to switch status from student-at-large to graduate student.

Graduate Student: A graduate student is someone who is pursuing a graduate degree, either masters or doctorate. It is not necessary to complete the graduate degree to complete the biology certification program.

To apply to the program please go to: <http://www.niu.edu/elss/how-to-apply/index.shtml>

Applications are accepted January 1st through May 30th, however we prefer to receive them by March 31st.

Tests and Checks

- ✓ **Health Checks:** Candidates must take and pass a TB test each year that they are in the program. TB tests are available for free to NIU students at the NIU Health Center and are good for one year. Potential candidates will need to prove that they do not have TB before the clinical experiences (ILAS 201, ILAS 301, and BIOS 401) and student teaching. Because the typical certification program takes two years, most individual are able to have just two, one before the first clinical experiences and another before the third clinical experience.
- ✓ **Criminal Background Checks** – You will need to contact the schools where you will be completing your clinicals to find out the criminal background check procedure for those districts.
- ✓ **Basic Competency** - Candidates must pass the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) to be eligible for admission to the Licensure program. You can find information about this test at the [Illinois Licensure Testing System - TAP test website](#).

In lieu of the TAP test candidates may use their ACT or SAT scores if they meet the following requirements: Composite **ACT** score of 22 or higher AND a minimum of 16 on the Writing portion, OR Composite **SAT** score of 1030 or higher (critical reading and writing) AND minimum score of 450 on Writing portion. All scores must be from one test administration taken on the same date.

- ✓ **ICTS Subject Matter test** - You must successfully pass the ICTS Subject matter test(s) appropriate to your program prior to student teaching. [Illinois Licensure Testing System](#)
- ✓ **edTPA (Teacher Performance Assessment)** - You must successfully pass the **edTPA** during student teaching in order to receive an Illinois teaching license.
- ✓ **Grade Point Average Requirements:** In order to become licensed through the NIU certification program in biology, potential candidates must have an overall NIU GPA of 2.5 if they are an undergraduate or 3.0 if they are a student at large or graduate student. In addition, a Science GPA of 2.8 for all biology, chemistry, and physics course work (3.0 for student at large or graduate student) is required. All coursework individually specified for certification including content, must have a grade of C or better.

Contact Information

Dr. Jon Miller, Director of Biology Educator Licensure
jsmiller@niu.edu or 815 753-7828

Paul Fix, Assistant Director of Secondary Science Educator Licensure
pfix@niu.edu or (815) 753-6819

Webpage

<http://www.niu.edu/elss/>

Required Coursework Biology Educator Licensure

Potential candidates must complete 45 hrs of Biology Content courses, 14 hrs of Chemistry (including lab), 8 hrs of Physics (including lab) and 7 hrs of Math. Students must pass all coursework listed below with a grade of C or better. In addition, candidates must pass the ICTS Biology Subject Matter Test.

General Education Course Work: Potential candidates must meet, or have met, the general education requirement for a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.

Subject Discipline Courses

Required Biological Science Courses:

- _____ BIOS 208, Fundamentals of Biology 1 (3 hrs) + BIOS 210 Lab (1 hr)
- _____ BIOS 209, Fundamentals of Biology 2 (3 hrs) + BIOS 211 Lab (1 hr)
- _____ BIOS 308 Genetics (5 hrs)
- _____ BIOS 303 Cell Biology (4 hrs) or BIOS 302 Molecular Biology (4 hrs)
- _____ BIOS 305 Biology of Land Plants (4 hrs)
- _____ BIOS 313 Microbiology (4 hrs)
- _____ BIOS 316 General Ecology (4 hrs)
- _____ BIOS 317 Evolution (3 hrs)
- _____ BIOS 355 Human Physiology (4 hrs)

+ PLUS **9 hrs** of elective BIOS courses (300 or 400 level) to complete the 45 hrs requirement

Required Chemistry Courses:

- _____ CHEM 210 General Chemistry I, including lab (4 hrs)
- _____ CHEM 211 General Chemistry II, including lab (4 hrs)
- _____ CHEM 330 or 336 Organic Chemistry I (3 hrs)
- _____ CHEM 331 or 337 Organic Chemistry II (3 hrs)

Required Physics Courses:

- _____ PHYS 210 General Physics 1, including lab (4 hrs)
- _____ PHYS 211 General Physics 2, including lab (4hrs)

Required Math Courses:

- _____ MATH 211 Calculus for Business and Social Science (3hrs)
- _____ STAT 301 Elementary Statistics (4 hrs)

Note: Detailed course descriptions can be reviewed from the current NIU Course Catalog. Course equivalents from other accredited institutions may be substituted at the discretion of the Certification Advisor.

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES MUST INCLUDE:

- _____ Oral Communication (3 hrs)
- _____ Written Communication (3-6 hrs) – ENGL 103/104 or ENGL 103/203 or ENGL 204
- _____ Psychology (3 hrs) - PSYC 102

Professional Education

Professional education courses are usually taken during a student's last four semesters before certification.

- _____ ILAS 201 Introductory Clinical Experience (1 hr)
- _____ ILAS 301 Second Clinical Experience (2 hr)
- _____ BIOS 401 Clinical High School Experience in Biology (2 hrs)
- _____ BIOS 402x Interdisciplinary Teaching of Science in Secondary Education (3 hrs)
- _____ BIOS 403 Methods in Teaching Biology (3 hrs)
- _____ BIOS 484x/684 The Nature of Science across Time and Cultures (2 hrs)
- _____ BIOS 485 Student Teaching (10 hrs)
- _____ BIOS 486 Transition to Professional Science Teaching (2 hrs)
- _____ ETT 402 Use of Technology in Teaching (3hrs)
- _____ LTIC 420/520: Methods and Materials for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (3 hrs)

Note: These courses require formal application to enter. Certification candidates must pass all course work with a grade of C or better in order to continue in the program.

Educational Theory Courses:

- _____ EPS 406/507 Human Development and Learning, Middle School and High School (3 hrs)
- _____ SESE 457/557 Integrating Exceptional Students in the Regular Classroom (3 hrs)

Time Line for Completion of Certification Courses:

| FALL | SPRING | SUMMER |
|---|---|--------|
| Semester 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ILAS 201 (1hr) BIOS 484 (2hrs) ETT 402 (3hrs) EPS 406 (3hrs) | Semester 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ILAS 301 (2hr) BIOS 402 (3hrs) LTIC 420 (3 hrs) | |
| Semester 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BIOS 401 (2hrs) BIOS 403 (3hrs) SESE 457 (3hrs) | Semester 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BIOS 485 (10hrs) BIOS 486 (2hr) | |

Note: Identification of Exceptional Children (typically SESE 457/557) and Human Development and Learning, Middle School and High School (EPS 406/508) may be taken any time after successfully completing ILAS 201. **(6hrs)**

Contact Information

Dr. Jon Miller, Director of Biology Educator Licensure
jsmiller@niu.edu or 815 753-7828

Paul Fix, Assistant Director of Secondary Science Educator Licensure
pfix@niu.edu or (815) 753-6819

<http://www.niu.edu/elss/>