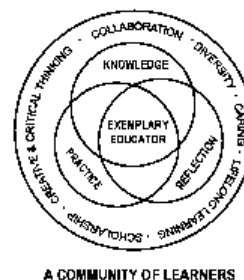




# Northern Illinois University

## Secondary Teaching in Earth and Space Science Educator Licensure Requirements



The Earth and Space Science licensure program has been designed to prepare exemplary educators. The experiences candidates are provided will enable them to demonstrate that they meet the Illinois and National Science Teachers Association standards.

It is **NOT** necessary to complete a degree program at NIU at the same time as completing license requirements but you must have a bachelor's degree and the equivalent of a degree in the subject area in which you seek licensure. It is strongly suggested that all the professional education requirements should be completed at NIU. Candidates successfully completing the educator licensure program through the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences will earn a secondary license (grades 9-12) with a primary endorsement in Earth and Space Science.

### Admission to the Secondary Science Educator Licensure Program

Potential candidates must first 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. Potential candidates have the following choices of student classification:

**Undergraduate** - Choose this option if you do not have a college degree. Potential candidates must declare a geology and environmental geosciences major with an emphasis in earth and space science education.

**Post-graduate** - If you already have an appropriate bachelor degree, you may wish to enroll as a post-graduate. Post-graduates are classified as undergraduate students. They may be pursuing a second bachelor's degree or simply be pursuing a teaching license. They do not have the ability to enroll in graduate level courses. Students often pursue this choice when they do not have an appropriate degree and need to take undergraduate level science courses. It is possible to switch status from post-graduate to either student-at-large or graduate student. You may not switch back once you have done so.

**Student-at-Large** - Choose this option if you have a bachelor's degree and wish to be able to take some courses for graduate credit. Students 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. Due to recent NIU policies regarding order of registration for classes, this is the least desirable choice. 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 degree to complete the educator license 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

In addition to taking courses, you must do the following:

- **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 <http://www.il.nesinc.com/>  
  
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.
- **Health Checks** - All candidates must take and pass a TB test before entering schools. TB tests are available for free to NIU students at the NIU Health Center and are good for one year. You will need to prove that you do not have TB before your clinical experiences. Because the typical license program takes two years, most students are able to have just two, one before the first clinical experience and another before the third 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.
- **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** - Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 and a GPA of 2.7 in NIU courses numbered 200 and above in physical, biological sciences and mathematics. **All coursework individually specified for licensure including content, must have a grade of C or better.**

## Contact Information

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## Webpage

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

## Required Coursework Earth and Space Science

Completing the following courses should provide you with the evidence necessary to demonstrate that you have met the standards. You **must complete at least 32 hours in Geology, 3 hours in Geography, 8 hours in Biology, 8 hours in Chemistry, 8 hours in Physics, and 3 hours in Mathematics** to become licensed. Students must pass all coursework listed below with a grade of C or better.

**Subject discipline courses:** You may have some flexibility in your course selection as long as selections meet the requirements for earth and space science educator Licensure.

### REQUIRED GEOLOGY COURSES: 32 hours total

- \_\_\_\_\_ GEOL 120/121 Introductory Geology/Introductory Geology Lab(3/1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ GEOL 322 Paleogeography, Paleoclimatology, Paleoecology (4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ GEOL 325 Solid Earth Composition (4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ GEOL 330 Global Cycles (4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ GEOL 335 Dynamics and Structure of the Earth(4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ GEOL 103 [or PHYS 162] Planetary and Space Science (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ GEOL Specified Upper Division GEOL Earth Science Elective (see catalog) (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ GEOL Specified Upper Division GEOL Earth Science Elective (see catalog) (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ GEOL 429 Inquiry Based Field Experiences For Earth Science Teachers (3)

### Outside of the Department: 3 hours total

- \_\_\_\_\_ GEOG 105/106 Introduction to the Atmosphere (3)

### REQUIRED BIOLOGY COURSES: 8 hours total

- \_\_\_\_\_ BIOS 208, Fundamentals of Biology 1 (3) + BIOS 210 Lab (1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ BIOS 209, Fundamentals of Biology 2 (3) + BIOS 211 Lab (1)

### REQUIRED CHEMISTRY COURSES: 8 hours total

- \_\_\_\_\_ CHEM 210 General Chemistry 1(3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ CHEM 212 General Chemistry I Lab (1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ CHEM 211 General Chemistry II (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ CHEM 213 General Chemistry II Lab (1)

### REQUIRED PHYSICS COURSES: 8 hours total

- \_\_\_\_\_ PHYS 210 General Physics I, including lab (4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ PHYS 211 General Physics 2, including lab (4)

### REQUIRED MATH COURSES: 3 hours total

- \_\_\_\_\_ Math 229 Calculus (3)

**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 Licensure Director.

### General Education courses must include:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Oral Communication (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Written Communication (3-6 hrs) – ENGL 103/104 or ENGL 103/203 or ENGL 204
- \_\_\_\_\_ Psychology (3)

**Professional Education**

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ ILAS 201 Introductory Clinical Experience (1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ ILAS 301 Second Clinical Experience (2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ GEOL 401 Clinical High School Experience in Earth and Space Science (2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ GEOL 483 Interdisciplinary Teaching of Science in Secondary Education (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ GEOL 495x/595x Methods in Teaching Earth and Space Science (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ GEOL 475 The Nature of Science across Time and Cultures (2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ GEOL 487/587 Student Teaching (10)
- \_\_\_\_\_ GEOL 482/582 Transition to Professional Science Teaching (2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ ETT 402 Use of Technology in Teaching (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ LTIC 420/520: Methods and Materials for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (3)

**Note:** These courses require formal application to enter. Licensure 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)
- \_\_\_\_\_ SESE 457/557 Integrating Exceptional Students in the Regular Classroom (3)

The schedule of courses in professional education would usually look as follows.

Fall	Spring
Semester 1	Semester 2
ILAS 201 (1) GEOL 475 (2) ETT 402 (3) EPS 406 (3)	ILAS 301 (2) GEOL 483 (3) LTIC 420 (3)
Semester 3	Semester 4
GEOL 401 (2) GEOL 495 (3) SESE 457 (3)	GEOL 487 (10) GEOL 482 (2)

**Contact Information**

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