The Costs of Becoming a Teacher

Obtaining a first professional certificate or license in any profession takes a great deal of training and education, but there are some very real costs associated with it as well. Becoming a teacher requires multiple expenditures throughout your program of study and we want you to be aware of them for purposes of future planning and to help you achieve your goal of becoming a teacher. The total costs are not trivial but they are a required part of the overall expense of joining the profession; while we cannot predict all contingencies (having to take a test multiple times, needing more than one Criminal Background Check, etc.) to the best of our ability, these are the estimated costs associated with becoming a teacher in Illinois:

Sophomore Year
1. Illinois State Board of Education Test of Academic Proficiency | TAP (paid to Pearson/NCS), $125 per administration.
2. One Criminal Background Check | CBC (ISBE-mandated), $65 (avg. fee, although these fees vary widely).*
3. One Tuberculosis Test (TB Test), at University Health Services, $10 (if you opt for your own insurance plan or use student insurance; costs higher if obtained elsewhere).

Junior Year
1. Illinois State Board of Education, Content Test (paid to Pearson/NCS), $86 per paper administration or $144 computer-based administration.
2. Two Criminal Background Checks | CBC (ISBE-mandated), $65 (avg. fee), total $130.
3. One Tuberculosis Test (TB Test), at University Health Services, $10

Senior Year
1. Illinois State Board of Education, Additional Content Test for additional endorsement area or second field (paid to Pearson/NCS), $86 per paper administration or $144 computer-based administration.
2. Illinois State Board of Education, Assessment of Professional Teaching | APT (paid to Pearson/NCS), $86 per administration.
3. One Tuberculosis Test (TB Test), at University Health Services, $10
4. Teacher Performance Assessment | edTPA (paid to Pearson), $300.**
5. One Criminal Background Check | CBC (ISBE-mandated), $65 (avg. fee).

Teaching License Registration Fee
1. Once you have graduated and/or completed your program you will have to pay ISBE $75 to activate your teaching license. This fee is scheduled to increase to $100 on January 1, 2015.

Total Costs: $1164 over three years.

If you have any questions about these costs please speak to your program advisor, to the Financial Aid Office (finaid@niu.edu), or to the University Office of Teacher Certification (teachercertification@niu.edu).

* While we have included four CBCs in our estimates, some programs are structured so that students may be required to have as many as ten, adding an additional $390. All costs for CBCs are estimates only and vary widely by placement sites.

**This requirement goes into effect no later than August 2015, when the edTPA is scheduled to replace the APT. Students who are subject to the edTPA can subtract $86.00 from the total costs.