Educator Licensure in Foreign Languages

Earn an Illinois K-12 Teaching License while completing your degree in French, German or Spanish

Learn about the target language, literature, and culture through your major courses in French, German or Spanish. Learn to teach through education courses, three clinical courses including observation in foreign language classrooms, and elementary, middle and high school foreign language teaching methodology courses taught by our faculty. Your course work will culminate with one full semester of student teaching.

Why Foreign Language Educator Licensure at NIU?

- Great advising: All licensure advising is done by program faculty, so you’ll always know what you need to do next.
- Great job placement rates: All of our recent graduates who pursued teaching jobs are employed either part-time or full-time teaching their target language.
- Advanced language courses: Faculty teach upper-level courses in linguistics, culture and literature.
- Two methods courses: Be well-prepared with lots of instructional strategies through two dedicated foreign language teaching methods classes.
- Connections with area schools: Our placement office works closely with several Professional Development Schools and places students throughout the northern Illinois area.
- K-12 licensure: Our program licenses teachers for all grades, K-12, opening more job possibilities for our graduates.
Program Requirements

- Passing score on the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP; formerly Basic Skills Test), or substituting an acceptable ACT + writing or SAT score.
- Successful completion of ILAS 201 (early clinical experience).
- Minimum GPA Requirements of 3.0 in your major and 2.75 cumulative.
- Earn a grade of A or B in the Advanced Grammar course for your major.
- Satisfactory completion of the Preliminary Review Form and a satisfactory interview with the Director or Assistant Director of Educator Licensure.

Timeline for those interested in Educator Licensure

- **Freshman Year**: Take general education courses (including PSYC 102) and as many courses as possible in your chosen language.
- **Sophomore Year**: Contact the teacher licensure advisors for initial advising in early fall; take the Test of Academic Proficiency or substitute another score; apply for ILAS 201; maintain required GPA.
- **Junior Year**: Take ILAS 201 (fall); take ILAS 301 and FLMT 490 (spring).
- **Senior Year**: Take FLMT 401 and FLMT 491 (fall); take FLPT 485 (student teaching) in the spring.

Study Abroad Opportunities

Educator Licensure students are strongly encouraged to study abroad and many options are available for a summer, a semester or an entire academic year abroad.

Our department offers several scholarships for this purpose. Last year, the department gave out more than $15,000 in scholarship monies.

What else can I teach?

Do you speak a second foreign language?

Many schools seek teachers who can teach more than one foreign language. Pair your major language with a minor in a second foreign language, and you may be able to become licensed to teach both!

Have you thought about teaching in a bilingual classroom or teaching English Language Learners?

The College of Education offers courses which can help you become licensed in these two high needs areas.

Do you have a minor in another subject, such as English, history or mathematics?

Depending on the number of credit hours you have in another discipline, you may be able to become licensed to teach that subject as well. See your educator licensure advisors for more information.

Contact your advisor

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For more information:
go.niu.edu/flal_edlicensure