Frequently Asked Questions - Endorsement

Q. What are the requirements to add an additional endorsement in science to a pending or already issued science certificate?

A. One must have 12 hours in the chosen content field and pass the ISBE Content Area test in that field.

Q. How well does the program, with its Science coursework requirements, prepare me for the exams in the various science areas?

A. Our program does not require enough coursework to necessarily pass these exams except in cases where a student has majored or minored in the subject. The exams are designed to test the level of knowledge achieved by a graduating college senior who has majored in the particular subject. Students should consider taking additional coursework if they wish to take the exam and be successful.

Q. But if I have 12 hours of course work in the additional science discipline I could just take the test and pass correct?

A. That is true. But you must not only consider the language of the law, but also how you will be perceived by school administrators and hiring personnel. Are they more likely to hire or place someone into a classroom who has merely passed a test and has 12 hours in the subject or someone who has substantial amounts of coursework? Also, you need to ask yourself the question will I be ready to teach this subject at the honors or AP level because the endorsement would suggest that to be true. Our program strongly recommends that students pursue the suggested course of study (listed in the column to the right, by discipline) before seeking to add an endorsement and make claims to being able to teach the subject.