

## Focused Programs for Subsequent Certification

The University, through the office of the Vice Provost, will assess fees for evaluation for focused program eligibility. The University will be responsible for collecting applications, distributing those applications to the relevant academic units, and for processing the entitlements.

Focused programs to obtain subsequent Illinois teaching certification are available for those who hold current Illinois initial or standard teaching certificates and wish to receive an additional teaching certificate in Early Childhood, Elementary Education, Secondary Education or Special Teaching certificate, available at Northern Illinois University

Each academic department housing one or more focused programs will designate at least one advisor or faculty member responsible for evaluation for focused program(s) eligibility. These “focused program advisors” are responsible for providing written documentation of requirements for individuals pursuing subsequent certification following a thorough review of credentials as described below.

Eligibility for participation in focused programs will be determined on a case-by-case basis following an individualized review. Each potential candidate will submit for review: (1) official transcripts from accredited institutions of higher education where the individual has taken coursework or clinical experiences, (2) evidence of prior teaching experience and teaching performance, and (3) evidence of other relevant professional experiences. In reviewing the potential candidate’s documentation, prior academic performance, the age and grade ranges of students with which the individual has previously worked, and the currency of coursework as well as the currency of teaching and other professional experiences will be taken into consideration. Following a comparison of the individual’s application with the standards for certification in that area, an individualized plan will be developed indicating coursework and/or experiences that must be completed to obtain subsequent certification in the selected area.

These individualized focused programs **may be revised** by the “focused program advisor” to include additional or fewer components based on assessments of performance obtained during the course of completing the identified requirements.

A candidate who successfully completes a focused program shall be considered as having completed the institution’s approved program for the certificate sought and shall be recommended for certification by entitlement.

Potential candidates for subsequent certification are **cautioned** that although review and identification of requirements may be completed, this does not guarantee access to the required courses and experiences at Northern Illinois University. A candidate’s ability to pursue subsequent certification through NIU is contingent on program capacity and availability of resources. It is recommended that potential candidates contact the individual departments to ascertain possible program availability.