**EDUCATOR LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS IN WORLD LANGUAGES**

Advisors: Dr. Karen Lichtman, Watson Hall 114, 815-753-6443, klichtman@niu.edu

 Ms. Kathy Kuschman, Watson Hall 112, 815-753-6449, kkuschman@niu.edu

**Declaring Teacher Licensure:** Undergraduates majoring in French, German, or Spanish, and graduate students in Spanish, may pursue teacher licensure. Students are officially admitted to the program when they are eligible to enroll in ILAS 301 after successfully completing ILAS 201 (if applicable).

**Preliminary Meeting**

* Fill out the **Teacher Licensure Program Preliminary Review Form** and **FERPA Release**
* Meet with one of the departmental teacher licensure advisors listed above to discuss the **Course Checklist**, Preliminary Review Form, and this checklist.
* When ready, fill out the application for ILAS 201 (the first clinical course) by the deadline (first week of October or March to observe the following semester).

**Semester 1: ILAS 201 (preferably fall but also available spring)**

* Complete a Criminal Background Check if required by the district(s) you are placed in.
* Maintain a GPA of 2.75 or above overall and 3.0 or above in the Foreign Language classes (you need to have a ‘B’ in FLFR 301, in FLGE 301, or FLSP 301). The program does not accept any grades below a C in education or content area courses.
* Apply for ILAS 301 by the deadline (first week of October or March).
* Set up an ELIS (Educator Licensure Information System) account with ISBE (the Illinois State Board of Education): <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Educator-Licensure-Information-System.aspx>. Directions are here: <https://vimeo.com/180601205>. Email your IEIN (Illinois Educator Identification Number) to the program directors.

**Semester 2: Program Admission – ILAS 301 (preferably spring but also available fall)**

* Enroll in FLMT 490 (spring only) concurrently with ILAS 301.
* Complete a Criminal Background Check as required by the district(s) you are placed in and in DeKalb for the after-school program.
* Get tested for TB (tuberculosis) after September 1st or February 1st. This test is valid for one year and is required for your 401/student teaching application.
* Apply for FLMT 401/student teaching by the deadline (approximately October 1st or March 1st).
* Start work on the **Professional Development Log**.
* Score Advanced Low (Target score) on the **Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)** at the end of 490 or before 491. We recommend taking the OPI immediately after a **Study Abroad** experience or after the most advanced conversation course. The Teacher Licensure Directors will inform you of the times we will proctor the test at NIU. Check the ACTFL Language Testing Office website for information and fees: [www.languagetesting.com](http://www.languagetesting.com). Scores below Advanced Low will need to create an individual improvement plan. Scores below Intermediate High will delay student teaching.
* Pass the **Content Area Test** (Foreign Language: French, German or Spanish) before student teaching. Register and find study materials at the Illinois Licensure Testing System: <http://www.il.nesinc.com/>.

**Semester 3: FLMT 401 (fall only)**

* Enroll in FLMT 491 (fall only) concurrently with FLMT 401
* Complete a Criminal Background Check as required by the district(s) you are placed in & renew TB test if necessary.
* Strongly suggested (department may be able to pay): join a professional organization:

● ICTFL (Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, <http://www.ictfl.org/>)

● AATG (American Association of Teachers of German, <http://northernillinois.aatg.org/>)

● AATF (American Association of Teachers of French, <http://www.frenchteachers.org/>)

● AATSP (American Association of Teachers of Spanish, <http://www.aatsp.org/>)

* Retake OPI if necessary (student must pay & complete individual study plan) to improve score to Advanced Low.
* **If you are doing both your BA and teacher licensure, apply for graduation the semester before student teaching,** which will give you time to address any unexpected problems that might arise (<http://www.reg.niu.edu/regrec/graduation/application.shtml>). Post-baccs and graduate students do *not* apply for graduation.

**Semester 4: Student Teaching – FLPT 485/585 (preferably spring but also available fall)**

* Complete a Criminal Background Check as required by the district(s) you are placed in & renew TB test if necessary.
* Fill out the **Candidate Information Sheet** with the help of your cooperating teacher and bring two copies to Student Teaching Kickoff (the week before classes start)
* **Register** for the edTPA at Student Teaching Kickoff.
* Complete your final **edTPA** as assigned, and submit it to Pearson Education.
* Achieve a passing score on the **edTPA** in order to be granted licensure. Unsatisfactory scores (below the cut score established by the State of Illinois) will require remediation before a teaching license can be granted.
* Complete your **Professional Development Log** and **Final Reflective Essay** by the last meeting of FLPT 485, during exam week.
* **Licensure.** You will receive an email from ISBE with detailed information about how to apply for a teaching license after student teaching grades have been posted. Do not attempt to apply for licensure until you receive this email. Students who are not U.S. citizens may receive a license but must attain American citizenship within six years in order to remain certified. Order a transcript in advance to be mailed to you after student teaching grades are posted.

**Important websites to consult**

* **World Language Educator Licensure Program** (<https://www.niu.edu/world-languages/academics/educator-licensure.shtml>
* **College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Educator Licensure Programs** (<http://niu.edu/clas-educator-licensure/>)
* **NIU Educator Licensure Site** (<http://niu.edu/educator-licensure/>)



**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. **Criminal Background Check(s) | CBC** (ISBE-mandated), $65 (avg. fee, although these fees vary widely.)

# Junior Year

1. Illinois State Board of Education, **Content Test** (paid to Pearson/NCS), $122
2. **2 Criminal Background Checks | CBC** (ISBE-mandated), $65 (avg. fee)
3. **Tuberculosis Test (TB Test)** for final clinical/student teaching application, at University Health Services, $10

# Senior Year

1. Optional: Illinois State Board of Education, additional **Content Test** for additional endorsement area (paid to Pearson/NCS), $122.
2. **Criminal Background Check | CBC** (ISBE-mandated), $65 (avg fee).
3. Possible retake of the **Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)** ($70)
4. The edTPA fee and the fee to attend ICTFL are already built into your course fees, so you will not have to pay them out of pocket.

# Teaching License Registration Fee

1. Once you have graduated and/or completed your program you will have to pay ISBE $100 to activate your teaching license.

**Total Costs: $500- $700 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 Educator Licensure and Preparation (teachercertification@niu.edu).

University Office of Educator Licensure and Preparation & Department of World Languages & Cultures
<http://niu.edu/educator-licensure/>
<http://www.niu.edu/forlangs/educator-licensure/index.shtml>
Updated 6-5-2020