

Sample Education Plan Associate in Arts (AA) Area of Focus: Special Education



Please note that the AA degree is not awarded in a specific major or focus area.

This is a SAMPLE plan to help guide you toward courses relevant to your interests while you are deciding on a transfer institution. Suggested courses are based on requirements of several four-year institutions. Please note that requirements vary among four-year colleges and universities. It is important to check early with your transfer school and academic advisor to ensure you are taking appropriate courses and meeting all requirements. You will find transfer guides for specific universities on MCC's website: www.mchenry.edu/transfer.

AA Degree Requirements: Area of Focus—Special Education

Students are encouraged to complete an AA degree prior to transfer. A minimum of 60 credits is required for transfer as a junior into a bachelor's degree special education program.

Please refer to MCC's AA degree planning sheet in the current academic catalog for specific degree requirements and course options.

Suggested Courses

GENERAL EDUCATION CORE CURRICULUM	CREDITS	OTHER COURSE REQUIREMENTS	CREDITS
Communications		Diversity and Multicultural Studies	
^ENG 151 Composition I	3	Two 3-credit hour courses are required. Courses that fulfill this requirement may be used to fulfill credits in Humanities/Fine Arts, Social/Behavioral Sciences, or Electives. See current catalog for complete list of Diversity & Multicultural Studies course options and how they apply toward degree requirements.	
^ENG 152 Composition II	3	Electives (approximately 19 credits, will depend on credit value of your required course selections)	
SPE 151 Introduction to Speech	3	Recommended Courses (select with your advisor)	
Humanities and Fine Arts		Important Note: Please remember that required coursework varies depending on your transfer school	
ART 151 Art Appreciation or MUS 151 Music Appreciation or THE 151 Intro. to Theatre	3	EDU 251 Introduction to Education	3
IAI Humanities (Recommended—literature course)	3	^EDU 253 Children with Exceptionalities	3
IAI Humanities or Fine Arts	3	^EDU 255 Diversity of Schools	3
Social and Behavioral Sciences		^EAS 120 Intro. Meteorology or EAS 170 Geol. & Oceanography or ^EAS 180 Intro. Astronomy	4
HIS 170 US History I or HIS 172 US History II	3	^PSY 251 Child Psychology	3
PLT 151 US Government	3	Foreign Language	0-16
PSY 151 Introduction to Psychology	3	Total Credits Required for AA Degree	60
^Physical and Life Sciences		Many 4-year schools will accept a maximum of 60-64 transfer credits.	
^CHM 115 Chemistry & Society or ^CHM 164 Intro. Chemistry or ^CHM 165 Gen. Chem. I or ^PHY 280 Gen. Physics I	4		
^BIO 157 Fundamentals of Biology	4		
Mathematics			
^MAT 201 Math Foundations/El. Ed. I	3		
^MAT 202 Math Foundations/El. Ed. II	3		

^Course has prerequisite(s)—Please reference the current academic catalog for prerequisites.

NOTE:

- Mathematics course selection will depend on your transfer school requirements. ALL requirements vary among four-year schools.
- Your transfer school may require at least 1 year of foreign language. High school foreign language may or may not count. It is always recommended that the foreign language requirement be completed prior to transfer.
- The AA degree includes the IAI General Education Core Curriculum (GECC) package. Meet with an MCC academic advisor to learn more about the IAI GECC and transfer benefits

For more information:
advising@mchenry.edu or (815) 479-7565
www.mchenry.edu/advising





Transfer Notes

The bachelor's degree in special education from an Illinois college or university may prepare students for Illinois teacher licensure and endorsement options in the following areas:

- Learning Behavior Specialist I—LBSI (Pre-Kindergarten through Age 21)
This is a cross-categorical special education endorsement. An early childhood special education approval is required to teach pre-kindergarten. Specialists in learning and behavior are prepared to teach children with a range of special needs, such as learning, emotional, and intellectual disabilities; orthopedic impairments; autism spectrum disorders; multiple disabilities; and traumatic brain injuries. Specialists in this field are found at all grade levels and are qualified to assess the needs of all students and to design and modify lessons to meet those individual needs.
- Teacher of Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (Pre-Kindergarten through Age 21)
Specialists in deaf and hard of hearing are trained to teach students in public, private, and residential programs. There currently are only a few colleges and universities in the state that offer this specialty. Among them are MacMurray College and Illinois State University.
- Teacher of Students Who are Blind or Visually Impaired (Pre-Kindergarten through Age 21)
Specialists in low vision and blindness work with learners who have a wide range of visual impairments. Teachers can be found in classrooms from preschool through high school, in public schools, private schools, and residential centers. There currently are only a few universities in the state that offer this specialty. Among them are Illinois State University and Northern Illinois University.

Teachers in public schools are required to be licensed; licensure requirements vary by state. Requirements to become a licensed teacher in Illinois include completion of a state approved bachelor's degree program, specific course and testing requirements to meet state standards, along with any additional requirements that may be detailed in the Illinois State Board of Education statute and rules. The process can begin at McHenry County College by taking lower-level coursework that will transfer to a state approved bachelor's degree program. It is important to keep in mind that admission and specific course requirements vary among four-year institutions. For a smooth transfer, it is best to narrow your transfer school choices early and to focus on the requirements for those schools.

Prior to entering a classroom for observation, practicum, or student teaching, a fingerprint-based Illinois and national criminal history records information check will be conducted. This criminal background check will be conducted during your academic career at MCC, if your coursework requires a classroom experience, and also at your baccalaureate transfer school.

Transfer Schools

Many schools have the early childhood education major. Following are a sample of Illinois public and private four-year institutions that offer early childhood education programs:

- Aurora University
- Bradley University
- Concordia University
- DePaul University
- Dominican University
- Eastern Illinois University
- Elmhurst College
- Illinois State University
- Illinois Wesleyan
- Judson University
- Lewis University
- Loyola University
- MacMurray College
- Monmouth
- National Louis University
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Northern Illinois University
- Olivet Nazarene University
- Rockford University
- Roosevelt University
- Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
- Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
- University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign
- Western Illinois University

Transfer Resources

www.itransfer.org—iTransfer is a portal for transfer assistance in the state of Illinois. Find information about the Illinois Articulation Initiative and MyCreditsTransfer (Transferology—a nationwide transfer tool).

www.mchenry.edu/transfer—Find transfer guides, course equivalencies, partnership agreements, and other transfer resources.

Illinois Teacher Education and Licensure



In order to become a licensed teacher in Illinois, you must not only complete a state approved bachelor's degree program, but you must also meet all coursework and testing requirements required by the State of Illinois and satisfy any additional requirements detailed in Illinois statute and rules. You can begin the process at McHenry County College (MCC) by taking lower-level coursework that will transfer to a state approved bachelor's degree program.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) website is the official location for the most up-to-date information. Information provided below is subject to change. Please use the ISBE website for detailed and current information: <http://www.isbe.net/licensure/>.

Licensure levels in Illinois

- Early Childhood Education (Birth–Grade 2)
- Elementary Education (Grade 1–Grade 6)
- Middle School (Grade 5–Grade 8)
- High School (Grade 9–Grade 12)
- Art, Music, Special Education, Foreign Language (Kindergarten–Grade 12)

Required State Testing

• Testing of Basic Skills

Proof of successful completion is a prerequisite for student teaching. It is strongly recommended that a passing score on one of the options be achieved no later than the sophomore year of college and prior to transfer.

- o **Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP 400)** The TAP is administered by appointment and in a computer-based format through Pearson Vue Centers.
- o **ACT**
 - ACT Plus Writing with composite Score of 22 or higher and minimum of 6 in writing—Two score reports may be submitted: one with a passing composite score and one with a passing writing score. (Note: ACT changed its scoring for the writing portion. Prior to 9/1/16, the scoring for the writing portion was 16.)
 - If ACT was taken prior to 9/1/15—ACT Plus Writing with minimum composite score of 22 and minimum score of 19 on English/Writing portion
- o **SAT** composite score of 1110 (evidence based Reading and Writing + Math) and a minimum score of 26 on Writing and Language. (Note: SAT changed its scoring. Prior to 5/5/16, scoring was SAT composite score of 1030 (critical reading + mathematics = 1030 or higher) and a minimum score of 450 on writing.)
- o **Superscoring is now available on ACT/SAT.** If you do not have an overall passing composite score, the ISBE will add the highest subject scores from each test and divide by the total number of tests for a composite score. You must email Licensure@isbe.net if you would like your tests superscored.
- o Scores must come from the same assessments. For example, a passing composite ACT score and a passing SAT writing score is not acceptable.

• Content test

Appropriate content test(s) must be passed prior to being placed in a student teaching position (a 16 week semester in a classroom). Content test(s) are based on your license and any endorsements you plan to obtain. Your academic advisor or Education Licensure Officer at your transfer school will guide you toward the test(s) you will need to complete. This test will be taken after transfer to the four-year school.

• Evidence-Based Assessment of Teacher Effectiveness (edTPA)

The edTPA assessment must be passed in order to complete your teacher education program and apply for licensure. The assessment includes review of authentic teaching materials, including short video clips of instruction, lesson plans, student work samples, analysis of student learning and reflective commentaries. The edTPA is administered during the student teaching experience.

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McHenry
County College