

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.

Important Things to Know

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 3; effective Spring 2019 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

- **For Admission to Teacher Education Programs**

Following are the options for testing into an Illinois teacher education program. 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.

- **Illinois Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP)** - The TAP is administered by appointment and in a computer-based format through Pearson Vue Centers.
- **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
- **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.)
- 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.

Criminal Background Check

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.

Requirements for Getting Licensed in Illinois with an Out-of-State Teacher Education Degree

Teachers Trained Out of State – Effective with the January 6, 2017 Senate Bill 2912, the following are licensure requirements for teachers trained out of state:

- Valid and comparable out of state license
- Degree and a major directly related to the licensure sought
- Student teaching/internship
- Required tests (content tests taken in another state or country will be honored if they are required for licensure in the other state)
- edTPA (or applicable waiver)
 - **If the edTPA passed as part of a teacher preparation program in another state**, official scores must be sent to ISBE.
 - **If the edTPA not passed at the time of application**, one of the below options may be utilized:
 - If the educator meets the requirements for the provisional license (ELS-PEDU) and this license is issued, the educator may complete the edTPA while teaching on this license.
 - The educator can enroll in the student teaching portion of an educator preparation program and complete the edTPA during this time.
 - The educator can provide evidence with his/her application of having at least one year of full-time teaching experience and having achieved a "proficient" or higher (or equivalent) rating on his/her most recent performance evaluation.
- Coursework in methods of teaching reading, reading in the content area, methods of teaching cross-categorical special education, methods of teaching ESL/bilingual students

Begin to Prepare for a Baccalaureate Teacher Education Program and Illinois Teacher Licensure at McHenry County College

- **Meet early and often with an MCC academic advisor.**
- If you have not already earned the appropriate score on the ACT or SAT, prepare to take either the TAP or the ACT or the SAT and successfully pass prior to transfer.
- Select the right transfer school for you. Understand the academic, admission and matriculation requirements for a baccalaureate teacher education degree at your transfer school.
- Use teacher education resource tools provided by MCC, such as transfer and articulation guides specific to your transfer school.
- Make contact with your transfer school to ensure you are taking appropriate courses and preparing for successful admission.