Approved Teacher Certification Programs at Western
The following Western Illinois University programs have been approved by the Illinois State Certification Board:

**Secondary (6-12)**
- Agriculture Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Science/Biology
- Science/Chemistry
- Science/Physics
- Social Science/History

**Special (K-12)**
- Art
- French
- Music
- Physical Education
- Spanish
- Special Education–Learning Behavior Specialist I

**Teacher Education Program**
Individuals seeking teacher certification must complete an approved teacher education program. An approved program consists of general education and professional education, including core courses, special education requirement, field experience, major program, technology competency, and supporting coursework.

**Professional Education**
All individuals enrolled in the Teacher Education Program must complete the professional education sequence offered by the Department of Educational and Interdisciplinary Studies. The sequence includes EIS 201, 301, 302, and 401. Full acceptance to the Teacher Education Program is required to enroll in EIS 401. A grade of C or better is required for all professional education courses.

All courses (grade of C or better required) in the professional education sequence taken at other institutions must be evaluated by the Department of Educational and Interdisciplinary Studies for equivalency. Evaluation forms are available in the Center for the Preparation of Education Professionals. In addition, 12 to 16 semester hours (sh) of student teaching are required. Secondary education majors must complete EDUC 439, Methods (grade of C or better required).

**Special Education**
All persons seeking an Illinois teaching certificate (early childhood, elementary, secondary, or special) must satisfy a state mandate which requires coursework in the identification, psychology, and methods of teaching the exceptional child, including without limitation, the learning disabled child. Courses at Western which satisfy this requirement are as follows:

- SPED 310, The Exceptional Individual, and SPED 390, Characteristics and Classroom Adaptations
- PSY 425, Psychology of Exceptional Children, and SPED 390, Characteristics and Classroom Adaptations
- KIN 393, Adaptive Physical Education (satisfies the requirement for Kinesiology majors)
- MUS 334, Music for the Exceptional Child (Music majors only)
- Special Education majors (see adviser)

Students should check with their advisers to determine the course required for their major (grade of C or better required). This course requires a field component.
Pre-Student Teaching Clinical Experiences
The Teacher Education Program requires that all candidates seeking teacher certification must complete college supervised, pre-student teaching clinical experiences in the major. A grade of C or above is required for all field experiences completed. Clinical experiences will typically be provided in the following courses:

- EIS 302, Multicultural and Social Foundations of Education
- EIS 303/304, Field Work in Educational and Interdisciplinary Studies
- Major methods courses and field experiences

Also available are experiences which may be provided in other courses in the major. Each student should consult his or her major department adviser to determine how this requirement will be met for that major’s program. Students who transfer courses (such as EIS 302) will need to provide verification of clinical experiences completed or supplement the transferred course with comparable clinical experiences at Western.

Admission to the Teacher Education Program
By the second semester of the sophomore year, teacher education candidates apply for admission to the Teacher Education Program. Full acceptance into the Teacher Education Program is required prior to enrolling in EIS 401 and applying to student teach. An appropriate committee will screen all applicants according to the following criteria:

- A written application with recommendations from major and minor departmental advisers
- Completion of 30 sh of approved work
- A grade of C or above in ENG 180 and 280, and COMM 241, and a general education math course. Note: Math competency does not satisfy this teacher education requirement.
- Cumulative GPA and major GPA of 2.50 or above (2.75 cumulative and major GPA for Special Education, Elementary Education, and History Education majors)
- Passage of the required Illinois Basic Skills Test
- Acceptable criminal background check
- Passage of the Teacher Education Technology Competency Assessment
- Completion of the Safety Training requirement

Student Teaching
Student teaching credit is required for graduation in the Teacher Education Program and is open to qualified candidates who are fully accepted in the Teacher Education Program. Candidates are responsible for meeting the requirements listed below prior to student teaching:

- 2.50 or above cumulative GPA and 2.50 or above major GPA (2.75 cumulative and major GPAs for Special Education, Elementary Education, and History Education majors)
- EIS 201, 301, 302, and 401, and special education requirement (grade of C or above)
- Appropriate methods course or courses (grade of C or above)
- Recommendation of the major department chair or designee
- Satisfactory completion of pre-student teaching clinical experiences
- Satisfactory completion of all coursework
- Ability to perform the essential functions of teaching with or without a reasonable accommodation
- Passing scores of Illinois Certification Test(s)
- Approved criminal background check
- Completion of the English Language Learners (ELL) modules

Full-Time Student Teaching
Each candidate must complete a minimum of 12 sh (12 weeks) of student teaching to meet graduation requirements. Some programs requiring assignments in two fields or at two grade levels may require 16 sh (16 weeks). A maximum of 12 sh of student teaching may be included in the minimum total of 120 sh required for graduation. Passage of the applicable Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT) exam, as well as any major department requirements, is necessary to successfully complete student teaching.

Certification
Candidates must complete all graduation, teacher education, and major department requirements before recommendation will be made to the Illinois State Board of Education. Students seeking an Illinois teaching certificate must apply online for the certificate after the student teaching semester.

Any person seeking a teaching certificate must pass the following state-administered certification tests: Illinois Certification Basic Skills Test, Illinois Certification Content Test(s), and APT Test.

wiu.edu/cpep

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