

Student Teaching

See also the “Student Teaching Handbook”

How long is student teaching?

Student teaching is typically a full semester for 3.0 credits.

How are student teaching placements made?

Approximately one year prior to student teaching, each teacher education program holds **mandatory** meetings to distribute student teaching applications. Candidates may indicate on their applications for a student teaching placement schools in which they have completed field experiences and wish to student teach.

- Student teaching placements must be within 25 miles of campus; and may not represent a professional conflict of interest (i.e., districts the candidate attended; districts where a family member attends or works, including serving on the school board; or the district in the attendance area of a permanent residence.)
- Student teaching must be completed under the active supervision of a cooperating teacher who is licensed and qualified to teach in the area, has a minimum of three years of teaching experience, has received a proficient or above performance rating in the most recent evaluation, and who is directly engaged in teaching subject matter or learning activities in the area of student teaching. School districts may set additional requirements for cooperating teachers.
- All applications for student teaching placements are made by the Department of Education to the District Office.
 - ✓ The Director of the Satellite Program & Student Teaching, Ms. Judith Kaminski, makes placements for all Early Childhood, Elementary, and Special Education Majors.
 - ✓ The Director of Secondary Education, Dr. Theresa Robinson, makes placements for all Secondary and K-12 Art and Physical Education Majors.
 - ✓ Mr. Ross Kellan makes placements for K-12 Music Education Majors.

May a student take a course or work during student teaching?

No. Student teachers may not take a course during full-time student teaching. All licensure coursework must be completed prior to the start of the student teaching term. Student teachers may not work the evening prior to a school day (e.g., Sunday through Thursday evenings). If students have special concerns or situations, they should meet with their program directors prior to submitting an application for a student teaching placement.

How long does it take to confirm a student teaching placement?

Confirmation of student teaching placements is dependent on the school district’s schedule for accepting student teachers, which may be as late as mid-semester the term prior to student teaching or as early as more than a year before the student teaching semester. Teacher candidates who have completed extensive and successful field experiences in the school district are more likely to be placed sooner than later because the district office does not have to find a cooperating teacher and principal willing to accept the candidate for student teaching.

What happens if a prospective student teacher does not want to accept a student teaching placement?

Teacher candidates are consulted prior to any request being sent to a school. If a prospective student teacher declines a confirmed placement or decides not to student teach in that semester, then the student is responsible for identifying any future placement(s). The Department of Education will not make any contacts on the student's behalf. However, the Department will submit the official request to the school district. This process could result in the teacher candidate delaying student teaching by a semester or more.

What happens if I apply to student teach, but then need to push back my student teaching for any reason?

Applications to student teach are for a specific semester. Therefore, teacher candidates must submit a new application if they change student teaching semesters¹. All new applications must be submitted one year in advance. It is important to note that teacher licensing rules and regulations may change in the middle of an academic year. Therefore, requirements for fall student teachers and spring student teachers may be different. In addition, candidates who delay obtaining a license may find that new requirements have gone into effect. The requirements for a professional educator license in Illinois are those in effect on the day the candidate applies and pays for the license.

How do I register for student teaching?

Registration depends on the type of licensure you will be earning.

- **Early Childhood Education:** Register for both 454A and 454B . If the placement is the first 8 weeks, register for section 454A; if the placement is the second 8 weeks, register for section 454B.
- **Elementary Education:** Register for EED 451 for an elementary placement.
- **Secondary Education:**
 - ✓ English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Theatre, or World Languages student teachers register for SEC 455.
 - ✓ K-12 Art and K-12 Physical Education require two placements. Register for both 457A and 457B. If the placement is the first 8 weeks, register for section 457A; if the placement is the second 8 weeks, register for section 457B.
 - ✓ K-12 Music Education student teachers register for MUS 457.
- **Special Education:** Register for both SPE 458A and SPE 458B. If the placement is the first 8 weeks, register for section 458A; if the placement is the second 8 weeks, register for section 458B

¹ Depending on the individual case, a new application may not be necessary. Check with individual program directors.