TEACHING OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

http://sib.illinois.edu/

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Online Program: Teaching of Biological Science
Degrees Offered: M.S.

Graduate Degree Program

The Master of Science in the Teaching of Biological Sciences (M.S.) degree program is designed for graduate students in a biological discipline who wish to earn teacher certification while completing the MS Degree in Biology. Individuals who are already certified to teach biology in Illinois public schools may enter the program to earn the MS degree while taking graduate courses in both biology and education.

Admission

The application requirements vary depending on whether or not the applicant is certified to teach in Illinois. Applicants holding an Illinois Teaching Certificate need only meet the application requirements for the Biology MS Program. Applicants who are seeking teacher certification in conjunction with the Biology MS program must meet additional application requirements for the College of Education to be admitted to the teacher certification program.

All Applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree (or equivalent) comparable in content and number of credit hours with that granted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Applicants must have an overall grade-point average of 3.0 (A=4.0) for the last 2 years of undergraduate study. Applicants must have completed a biology undergraduate majors program of study equal to or approximating that offered by the School of Integrative Biology or the School of Molecular and Cellular Biology. Applicants must either have proof of Illinois state teacher certification in Science: Biology or complete the Science: Biology teacher certification requirements while in the MS program.

Applicants who are not certified to teach biology must also apply to the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education for admission to the teacher certification program. This dual application has another set of admission requirements. Applicants must have an undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 (A=4.0) or better. Applicants must demonstrate high-level written communication (quality of writing, thoughtfulness about education, reflective thinking). Applicants must provide evidence of formal or informal experience working with children or youth comparable to the age-level of students served in the program for which application is made. All applicants must pass the Illinois Certification Testing System Tests of Basic Skills AND Science: Biology prior to the application deadline. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Scores are required by the College of Education prior to the application deadline. The institution number is 1836 and the GRE program code is 00 or 0203. Applicants must agree to a Criminal Background Check and fingerprinting.

Applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit TOEFL scores. International applicants must have a TOEFL score of at least 613 (paper-based test), 257 (computer-based test), or 103-104 (internet-based test) to be considered for admission. The TOEFL must be taken within two years of the proposed term of entry; older scores are not valid. The Test of Spoken English (TSE) is required; applicants must receive a score of at least 60. Request that official TOEFL and TSE scores be sent directly to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The institution number is 1836 and the program code is 00 or 35.

See the Program Web Site (http://omst.sib.illinois.edu/apply/app) for application deadlines, procedures, and more detailed application guidelines.

Financial Aid

Financial assistance in the form of full or partial waiver of tuition and fees is not available to online M.S. students (except statutory waivers).

Online Master of Science in Teaching of Biological Science

Applicants may or may not be previously certified to teach in the State of Illinois. This master's program is available online (http://omst.sib.illinois.edu).

Applicant Previously Certified

While specific courses are not required, previously certified candidates must complete a minimum of 8 hours of graduate level courses offered by departments in the College of Education. (These courses would be selected in consultation with the Biology advisor based on the student’s interests)

Elective hours selected from either biology or education

8

Hours Required within the unit (Biology-IB or MCB)

16

Research/Project Hours (min/max applied toward degree):

0-4

Total Hours

32

Other Requirements

Other requirements may overlap

Courses taken “credit/no credit” may not be used toward degree requirements.

Deficiencies in undergraduate courses needed to satisfy the certification requirement must also be taken; these courses normally do not count toward the 32 or 51 graduate hours needed to complete the degree. Deficiencies are determined by an audit of transcripts conducted by the Teacher Certification Officer.

Conferral of the MS degree is contingent upon the completion of all teacher certification requirements.

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Minimum GPA: 3.0
Applicant NOT Previously Certified

Students Without Previous Certification must complete the 4-semester sequence of professional education courses, including one semester of student teaching, required for teacher certification. (29 graduate hours plus 2 undergraduate hours) Some of the graduate level courses are counted toward the basic requirement of 16 graduate hours of Education courses required for the MS degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One 4 hour, 500-level Curriculum and Instruction course</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One 2 hour, 400-level Education Policy Studies course</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours required within the Unit (Biology-IB or MCB)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research/Project Hours (min/max applied toward degree)</td>
<td>0-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Undergraduate Hours</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Graduate Hours</strong></td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Requirements

Other requirements may overlap. Courses taken "credit/no credit" may not be used toward degree requirements.

Deficiencies in undergraduate courses needed to satisfy the certification requirement must also be taken; these courses normally do not count toward the 32 or 51 graduate hours needed to complete the degree. Deficiencies are determined by an audit of transcripts conducted by the Teacher Certification Officer.

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<tr>
<td>Hours Required Within the Unit (Biology - IB or MCB):</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>500-level Hours Required Overall in Program (min):</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td><strong>Conferral of the MS degree is contingent upon the completion of all teacher certification requirements.</strong></td>
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<td>Qualification for teacher certification is contingent upon the completion of all MS degree requirements.</td>
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<td><strong>Minimum GPA: 3.0</strong></td>
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