The College of Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign offers undergraduate degree programs in the majors of Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Middle Grades Education, Special Education and a minor in Secondary Education, all of which include teaching licensure. The College of Education also offers a non-licensure undergraduate degree in the major of Learning and Education Studies.

A distinguishing hallmark of the College of Education is the commitment to diversity. Faculty members engage in research, teaching, and service activities developed to ensure that all children, including those who are racially, ethnically, linguistically, and economically different as well as people with different abilities and disabilities, are provided with educational opportunities.

The Early Childhood Education degree program prepares students for recommendation for Illinois Early Childhood licensure (birth through grade three). The program also incorporates course work leading to an Early Childhood Special Education approval. The Elementary Education program prepares students for recommendation for Illinois licensure (grades one through six). The Middle Grades Education program prepares students for recommendation for Illinois licensure for grades five through eight in one or more areas of concentration from Math, Social Science, Science, or Literacy. The concentrations align with the Illinois State Board of Education areas of endorsement. The teacher education minor in Secondary Education is a component of the teaching option within the following majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, English, Geology, History, Mathematics, and Physics. Students who satisfactorily complete an LAS degree in one or more areas of concentration from Math, Social Science, Science, or Literacy. The concentrations align with the Illinois State Board of Education areas of endorsement. The teacher education minor in secondary education are eligible for the University’s recommendation for Illinois licensure in grades nine through twelve. For additional information regarding Liberal Arts and Sciences requirements, see the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las).

The Special Education major offers an undergraduate field-based professional preparation program designed to prepare teacher candidates to work with individuals with varying disabilities including: learning disabilities, social or emotional disorders, cognitive disabilities, physical disabilities and other health impairments, autism and traumatic brain injury. Candidates who successfully complete the degree program are eligible for the University’s recommendation for Illinois licensure to teach students with disabilities from pre-K through 21 in a range of settings.

The Learning and Education Studies degree program is a non-licensure major with concentrations in Applied Learning Science, Educational Equality and Cultural Understanding, Workplace Training and Development, and Digital Environments for Learning, Teaching and Agency. The curriculum prepares students for a broad range of positions requiring expertise in formal and non-formal learning and education. Examples include training and program development, international schools, and other education-related positions in agencies, business, and government.

Requirements

Admission

Admission to the College of Education at any level (freshmen, off campus and on-campus applicants) is competitive. Freshman and off-campus transfer application information is available on the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website (https://www.admissions.illinois.edu/apply). Information for on-campus applicants can be found on the College of Education website (http://education.illinois.edu/programs/information-for/ui-students-applying-to-the-major).

General Education

In order to meet the University’s current requirements in general education, each candidate for a degree from the College of Education must complete the campus general education requirements and the Language other than English through the third level. In most teacher education curricula, specific coursework within the general education areas must be taken. Also, in some teacher education curricula, additional credit in the general education areas is required. For more information on required general education coursework, contact a College of Education academic adviser. Students must select their courses for general education from the campus general education course list (https://courses.illinois.edu/gened/DEFAULT/DEFAULT).

Graduation

Undergraduate students in the College of Education must meet the University requirements for graduation. For those in a major leading to licensure, the requirements of the Council on Teacher Education (http://cote.illinois.edu) for licensure must also be met. Students in all curricula must meet the course and academic credit requirements of their curricula with satisfactory scholastic averages. Student teaching is required of all undergraduates in a licensure major and must be completed through the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Students in need of additional information concerning regulations and degree requirements of the College of Education should consult their academic advisers or the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 142 Education Building, 1310 South Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820.

Special Programs

Honors at Graduation

Eligibility for graduation with honors is established after all grades are recorded following a student’s final semester. A student who achieves the required scholastic average in all work presented for graduation (excluding credit for courses not included in the computation of the grade point average) may be recommended for honors as follows: honors, minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.75; high honors, minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.85; highest honors, minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.90.

Edmund J. James Scholars

The James Scholar program is a University-wide honors program established to encourage undergraduate research and independent study and to foster scholarly endeavors. As a James Scholar, students are entitled to certain academic privileges, including priority assignment
of registration time, access to the "stacks" in the library, and official recognition on the University of Illinois transcript.

Entering freshmen are invited to participate for the upcoming fall semester based on the Office of Undergraduate Admissions standard that combines factors such as standardized test scores and high school GPA. Transfer and continuing students must have achieved at least a 3.5 cumulative and University of Illinois grade point average to participate.

Students are certified as James Scholars by the college on a yearly basis. To qualify for this certification, the student must successfully complete a James Scholar project/requirement in the fall and spring semester and maintain a 3.5 University of Illinois and cumulative grade point average. Details are available on the college website (http://education.illinois.edu/current-students/undergraduate/james-scholars).

Majors with teaching licensure

- Early Childhood Education (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/education/departments/curriculum-instruction/ece)
- Elementary Education (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/education/departments/curriculum-instruction/elem-school-tch)
- Middle Grades Education (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/education/departments/curriculum-instruction/middle-grades)
- Special Education (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/education/departments/spec-ed)

Major without teaching licensure

- Learning and Education Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/education/learning-education-studies)
- Teacher Education Minor in Secondary School Teaching (http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/education/secondary)