

FACT

The United States Department of Education, for the last six years, has pointed out a national shortage of science teachers, including biology teachers.

Source: "Designated Teacher Shortage Areas," Illinois State Board of Education

Developing Expertise

As a student in GSU biology program, you will encounter the natural world, decipher its codes, and understand its complexities. As a student of education, you also learn how to teach valuable skills and understanding to the next generation of scientists, researchers, and environmentally aware citizens.

Outstanding Preparation

The curriculum for the undergraduate major in biology with a teacher education concentration provides you with a strong background in the basic concepts of molecular, organismic, and population biology.

The sequence of coursework is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education and leads to an initial secondary certificate in biology. You can also obtain an endorsement for teaching in middle school.

To be recommended for an Illinois State Board of Education teaching certificate, you must present evidence of having passed the Basic Skills, Subject-Matter Knowledge, and Assessment of Professional Teaching examinations of the Illinois Certification Testing System. You must complete a student teaching requirement in biology and meet other requirements for certification through approved programs in the Teacher Education and Certification section of the GSU catalog.

Unlimited Opportunity

GSU offers a superior educational opportunity at an affordable tuition rate while maintaining the professional quality of its programs. GSU's outstanding faculty and real-world curriculum prepare graduates to meet the demands of the future.

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Bachelor of Science in Biology with Teacher Education Concentration

College of Arts and Sciences

Teacher Licensure

This program is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education and leads to the Initial Secondary License qualifying students to teach biology and general science. Students who major in biology with a concentration in secondary education may obtain an endorsement that prepares them for teaching in the middle school. Students wishing to pursue this endorsement must take three hours in the psychology of early adolescent development, three hours in curriculum instruction and three hours of methods related to the middle school. Students should contact their advisor for specific course requirements.

To be recommended for an Illinois State Board of Education teaching license, the student must present evidence of having passed the Basic Skills, Subject-Matter Knowledge, and Assessment of Professional Teaching examinations of the Illinois Licensure Testing System.

Students must meet other requirements for licensure through approved programs listed in the Licensure of Teachers and Other School Professionals section in the catalog.

Admission to Biology Teacher Education

In addition to meeting all university admissions requirements for undergraduate students, applicants must meet the following requirements to continue in the program:

1. have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher in all lower division courses applied to the degree program;
2. submit a word-processed essay not to exceed 300 words explaining why the applicant wishes to be a teacher;
3. submit evidence of having passed the Test of Academic Proficiency (formerly Basic Skills) of the Illinois Licensure Testing System;
4. submit scores from the ETS Proficiency Profile;
5. complete EDUC-2310 (or equivalent) with a grade of "B" or better, and
6. Attend the Secondary Education Orientation.

All candidates for Illinois teacher licensure at Governors State University are required to submit to an Adam Walsh fingerprint-based criminal background check by Accurate Biometrics prior to their initial field experience in the schools. For more information on this testing and available test sites, please visit accuratebiometrics.com. Consult with your advisor for information concerning the related GSU policies and procedures.

Student Progress

The faculty monitors and evaluates student progress continually. The section, Licensure of Teachers and Other School Professionals, in the catalog provides a general description of the standards used to evaluate student progress. A more detailed statement of the standards and processes followed by the secondary education faculty is available in the Secondary Education Undergraduate Student Handbook.

Admission to Student Teaching

Students must apply for admission to student teaching before enrolling in EDUC - 4999 Student Teaching: Senior Capstone (12). An application for admission to student teaching must be submitted to the director of Field Experiences in the Division of Education. The application must be submitted by November 30 for the fall term and January 31 for the spring term proceeding the academic year in which the student intends to teach. Student teaching is not offered in the summer term. This application for student teaching will certify that the student applying has or will have met the following requirements:

1. completed at least 48 hours of general education requirements with a GPA of 2.75 or higher,
2. completed professional education course requirements, except student teaching, including a minimum of 100 clock-hours of field experience with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, with a grade of "C" or better in each course, and EDUC-4330 and EDUC-4340 with a grade of "B" or better;
3. must have completed methods course no more than two years prior to the commencement of student teaching;

Bachelor of Science in Biology with Teacher Education Concentration

College of Arts and Sciences

4. have no more than six hours remaining to be completed in the major in which the student is enrolled with a GPA of 3.0 or higher and completed all courses with a grade of "C" or better;
5. met all state requirements applicable to the subject matter area(s) in which the student will teach as outlined in Section IX, Staff Qualifications of the Illinois State Board of Education publication, Minimum Requirements for State Licensure;
6. submit evidence of having passed the Biology content area exam of the Illinois Licensure Testing System; and
7. receive a positive recommendation from the Secondary Education Student Progress Committee.
11. complete the following course work with a grade of "B" or better: eight hours of general biology with laboratory, three hours of botany with laboratory, three hours of zoology with laboratory, eight hours of general chemistry with laboratory, eight hours of organic chemistry with laboratory;
12. show evidence of having passed the Assessment of Professional Teaching;
13. meet any additional requirements listed in the Teacher Licensure section of this catalog; and
14. receive a positive recommendation from the Secondary Education Student Progress Committee.

Degree Requirements

Students must meet all university requirements for a bachelor's degree; and, in addition, students must complete the General Education Requirement for Teacher Licensure, Initial Secondary License listed below. Completion of this requirement meets the general education requirement. In addition, students must:

1. have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher;
2. earn a grade of "C" or better in all general education courses;
3. have a GPA of 2.75 or higher for all general education courses;
4. have a GPA of 3.0 or higher in biology and chemistry courses with a grade of "C" or better in each course;
5. have a GPA of 3.0 or higher for EDCP-2101, EDUC-3440, and SPED-2100, with a grade of "C" or better in each course;
6. earn a grade of "B" or better in EDUC-2310, EDUC-4330, and EDUC-4340;
7. earn a grade of "B" or better in EDUC-4999;
8. complete a minimum of 100 clock-hours of supervised pre-student teaching experiences;
9. provide evidence of successful completion of the Illinois and U.S. Constitution examinations;
10. complete at least one three-hour course in nonwestern or third world cultures;

General Education Requirements for Teacher Licensure, Initial Secondary License, Biology (48 Hours)

The following courses must be taken at the lower-division level:

General Biology with Lab (8)
General Chemistry with Lab (8)

Additional Courses

The following courses can be taken at either the lower-division or upper-division level and must include at least one three-hour course in non-Western or Third World cultures:

Written Communication (6)
Oral Communication (3)
American History (3)
U.S. Government (3)
Humanities (6)
Fine Arts (3)
Introduction to Psychology (3)
Health (2)
MATH - 2281 Applied Calculus (3)

Required Courses (85 Hours)

The following courses can be taken at either the lower-division or upper-division level:

Botany with Laboratory (3)
Zoology with Laboratory (3)
Organic Chemistry with Laboratory (8)

Bachelor of Science in Biology with Teacher Education Concentration

College of Arts and Sciences

BIOL - 3360 Comparative Anatomy (3)
BIOL - 3361 Comparative Anatomy Laboratory (1)
BIOL - 4430 Microbiology (3)
BIOL - 4431 Microbiology Laboratory (1)
EDUC - 2310 Foundations of Education (3)
PHYS - 2141 Intermediate Physics I (3)
PHYS - 2142 Intermediate Physics Lab I (1)
PHYS - 2143 Intermediate Physics II (3)
PHYS - 2144 Intermediate Physics Lab II (1)
SPED - 2100 Survey of Students with Exceptionalities (3)

The following courses must be taken at the upper-division level:

BIOL - 3099 Biology Junior Seminar (3)
BIOL - 3322 Ecology (3)
BIOL - 3323 Ecology Laboratory (1)
BIOL - 3340 Genetics (3)
BIOL - 3370 Cell Biology (3)
BIOL - 3371 Cell Biology Laboratory (1)

Select one physiology course and its corresponding lab from the following two:

BIOL - 4450 Animal Physiology (3)
BIOL - 4451 Animal Physiology Laboratory (1)
Or
BIOL - 4460 Plant Physiology (3)
BIOL - 4461 Plant Physiology Laboratory (1)

BIOL - 4990 Undergraduate Research I (1)
BIOL - 4992 Undergraduate Research II (1)
EDCP - 2101 Introduction to Educational Technology (3)
EDUC - 3440 Ed Psyc II: Learning (3)
EDUC - 4330 Principles of Science Education (3)
EDUC - 4340 Teaching Secondary School Science (3)
EDUC - 4999 Student Teaching: Senior Capstone (12)
PHYS - 1200 Earth and Space Science (3)
STAT - 4219 Statistical Methods (3)

Total - 134 Hours

2016 – 17 Catalog Year

