

MEd in Instructional Leadership: Secondary Education



The Instructional Leadership MEd program in secondary education prepares future teachers of English, science (chemistry and physics), foreign language (French, German, and Spanish), and social science (history) for urban classrooms. The program blends theory, research, and practice from the very first semester. Students observe in Chicago classrooms while learning about the latest research on urban schooling, youth and families, and teaching and assessment. Teacher candidates experience multiple school placements throughout the program and discuss what it means to teach a diverse student population in a large urban area like Chicago.

PROGRAM FACULTY

Program faculty includes nationally and internationally known experts in adolescent literacy, adolescent development, curriculum studies, special education, educational policy, and content-specific pedagogy. In addition, they bring a wealth of experience in teaching from precollege to graduate level and in working with urban schools. These faculty strengths foster strong theoretical and research backgrounds in teacher candidates, with a constant vigilance toward addressing the practical challenges facing urban teachers in secondary education.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

To be certified in secondary education through the MEd program, students must complete both the degree and certification requirements. A minimum of 34 semester hours of course credit are required for the degree and 12 additional hours are required for student teaching. Specifically, students complete 11 semester hours of educational foundations, 14 semester hours of secondary education, and nine semester hours of graduate courses chosen in consultation with an advisor. These courses include one to three methods courses in the student's subject matter, depending on the discipline. Students also complete 145 hours of fieldwork prior to student teaching, with a full semester (15 weeks) of student teaching at the end of their program.

CERTIFICATIONS

The ISBE Type 09 Certificate provides secondary-education teacher certification for those seeking to teach history, chemistry, physics, and English in grades 6–12. A special certificate (Type 10) provides ISBE certification for those seeking to teach Spanish, French, or German in kindergarten through 12th grade. Students are also encouraged to seek a middle school endorsement (two additional courses) and a bilingual or English language learner endorsement (five additional courses).

SPECIAL PROGRAM FEATURES

In the MEd program in secondary education, subject-matter and education faculty work together to ensure that students receive the best possible combination of subject-matter and pedagogical preparation to teach in urban secondary schools. Each teacher candidate has a content advisor and an education advisor who work together to coordinate course offerings and instruction and school placements.

RESULTS

Secondary education graduates occupy teaching positions across the Chicago area. Their teaching assignments range from middle-grade introductory courses to advanced-placement senior electives. The characteristic most commonly cited about UIC secondary education graduates is their combination of content and pedagogical expertise, with a deep commitment to teaching students from diverse demographics, backgrounds, and experiences.

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