

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Scholarship & Stipend Funding

MEd Science Education - Strand A

About the Program

What the program offers you

The UIC MEd Science Education - Strand A degree prepares graduates for the opportunities and challenges of teaching science in urban high schools. Strand A is intended for people who have yet to earn an Illinois professional educator license (PEL). The focus on community relevance and social justice is unique among science teacher preparation programs nationally. Students have the option to complete the MEd with PEL in an intense 12-month program or to work at a pace that allows for other commitments and/or additional endorsements (including middle grades science, bilingual, ELL).

National Science Foundation scholarship and stipend funding

Project SEEED (Science Education for Excellence and Equity in Chicago), an NSF-funded initiative, enriches the MEd program in various ways. First, Project SEEED addresses the underrepresentation of African American and Latina/o teachers by offering significant financial support to qualified Teaching Fellows who also commit to teaching in the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) for at least their first four years (see reverse for details). Second, Project SEEED provides Teaching Fellows with long-term mentorship by CPS master science teachers. Third, Project SEEED non-for-profit partner organizations provide community responsive professional development that complements the coursework and experiences of all students in the MEd program. Project SEEED is a partnership between faculty in UIC's Curriculum & Instruction and science departments, CPS, Project SYNCERE, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, Chicago Freedom School, Chicago Botanic Garden, Friends of the Chicago River, Institute for Latino Progress, and Project NIA.

Nuts and Bolts

What science background is required?

The MEd program is designed for students who have a major or significant undergraduate coursework in a science field. Faculty work with you even before you apply to the program to analyze your transcripts for alignment with Illinois State Board of Education requirements for licensure.

How long does the program take and when can I get started?

It is possible to complete the MEd with a teaching license in 12-months. This option requires students to begin in the summer semester and to follow a carefully designed, intense schedule. A less intense pace with an individualized course of study is also available for students who wish to begin in the fall or spring. We admit students every semester so that you can begin right away.

What is the schedule for courses, field placement, and student teaching?

Courses are scheduled in the evenings to maximize the amount of time teacher candidates spend in schools. The 12-month schedule (or the final year of a personalized program) requires that students be in their field placement for much of the day in the summer and fall and on a full-time basis for student teaching in the spring. We make all of our field placements in CPS schools with experienced teachers.

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Nuts and Bolts (continued)

What endorsements do you offer?

Students complete at least one disciplinary science endorsement in biology, chemistry, earth & space science, environmental science, or physics. Many of our graduates have earned a second disciplinary science endorsement or additional endorsements for middle grades, English as a Second Language (ESL), or bilingual education.

What support is available through Project SEEEC?

Project SEEEC Teaching Fellows will receive full tuition waivers for the MEd program (12-month schedule), along with a \$10K stipend during enrollment at UIC and a \$10K salary supplement for each of the first four years of teaching in CPS. During those four years, Teaching Fellows will participate in teacher inquiry groups led by CPS master science teachers. Project SEEEC seeks to address the underrepresentation of African American and Latina/o science teachers in CPS and also gives priority to chemistry and physics, but other science disciplines qualify. If you are interested, please contact us and complete the Project SEEEC application along with the regular MEd program application.

Quotes from Graduates

"I am so pleased with what I have taken from the MEd program at UIC, and it has challenged me to change the way I view science education. I was surrounded with other aspiring educators who...constantly question how we can teach chemistry in a new and different way. The program also put me in contact with non-for-profit organizations across Chicago...which I can now incorporate into my future classroom. Most importantly, the program exposed me to the idea of practicing social justice and culturally relevant teaching in science." - **Tammy Pheuphong, MEd Science Education '16**

"The MEd Science Education program at UIC gave me the knowledge and skills I needed to provide an enriched science education to urban youth." - **Steven Vargas, MEd Science Education '14**

"The MEd Science Education program at UIC provided me with many valuable learning experiences. I appreciated the professors' openness to share their firsthand experiences as educators and willingness to help me throughout my preparation in becoming a teacher. I feel that I was provided with all the tools and strategies to be a successful teacher in any setting. I learned so much and look forward to applying all I learned in my own classroom!" - **Michelle Chavez, MEd Science Education '14**

Contact

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