



Illinois State Board of Education

Professional Educator Licensure Flexibilities

The Illinois State Board of Education encourages educator preparation programs to stay well-informed of the current flexibilities in initial and subsequent licensure requirements for educators.

Coursework Opportunities

Upper Division	Upper division coursework is NOT required for content area endorsements. Coursework for content specific endorsements is acceptable at any credit bearing level.
General Education	Licensure officers may apply any and all relevant general education coursework to content area endorsement requirements. These courses may have been completed prior to program entry, including community college coursework and coursework from other institutions, provided they are regionally accredited.

Student Teaching

DID YOU KNOW...

- Student teachers may be paid for student teaching.
- Student teachers are not prohibited from employment during their student teaching experience.
- Educator preparation programs may accept a variety of teaching experiences to meet the student teaching requirements for licensure, which include, but are not limited to substitute teaching, paraprofessional teaching, private or community-based teaching, or out of state teaching experiences.

KEEP IN MIND...

- It is at the discretion of the university/program as to whether experience meets requirements for licensure.
- The teacher performance assessment and content area assessments are still required exams for individuals entitled by Illinois institutions.
- The quality and depth of the prior teaching experience approved by the EPP in place of student teaching should be held to the same standard as a student teaching experience. EPPs may reserve the right to gather letters of verification from former employers and colleagues as references. A portfolio of writing samples that links to standards may also be another form of verification and accountability.

Acknowledge Prior Learning

Prior Learning Assessments

A number of assessments currently exist to measure competency in specific content areas and may be utilized by educator preparation programs in place of required content area coursework, which include, but are not limited to the following:

- College Level Exam Program (CLEP)
- Advanced Placement Exams (AP)
- International Baccalaureate Programs
- Dantes Subject Standardized Tests (DSST)

Prior Learning Experiences

Utilize ISBE form 83-85 for circumstances in which the program is accepting prior learning experiences, assessments, degrees, etc. to meet coursework or clinical experience requirements. This [Educator Preparation Provider Verification of Individualized Pathway to Licensure \(83-85\)](#) form was developed in an effort to provide an efficient and clear method for educator preparation programs to award and confirm the acceptance of prior learning in place of coursework requirements, which ISBE supports and encourages.

Questions? Contact your ISBE preparation liaison directly or email preparation@isbe.net