

Secondary Education

at Benedictine University

Candidates seeking a teaching career must have a sincere desire to teach, show intellectual promise and display personal, professional and academic characteristics indicative of competent teachers.

The School of Education's major goal, according to its conceptual framework, is to create effective practitioners who are committed to scholarship, lifelong inquiry, leadership and social responsibility. These enduring outcomes are developed and nurtured through the curriculum. Educators develop scholarship by acquiring a breadth and depth of knowledge in the field. As scholars, they develop lifelong inquiry by immersing themselves in a process of on-going questioning and reflection that results in informed thinking and decision making. They assume leadership roles in a variety of venues where they can affect change and improve practice. Their leadership is guided by a sense of social responsibility to create fair and equitable environments that support and enhance learning in order to maximize each individual's potential.

Advantages of studying secondary education at Benedictine University

- Personal attention and guidance provided by skilled academic advisors
- The career flexibility made possible by a liberal arts degree
- The opportunity to gain experience through off campus preclinicals and a 16-week student teaching experience under the guidance of certified professionals
- Integration of technology into coursework
- Quality instruction from experienced faculty who have worked extensively in both private and public schools
- The value of dual degree with a major field of study as well as a minor in education
- Advantage of job placement aid through the Career Development office
- Certification as a teacher in Illinois

What are the requirements for secondary education?

The student prepares for certification in Secondary Education by completing a minor in education and academic major outside the education division. The approved majors for secondary certification at Benedictine University are Biology, Business, Chemistry, English, Mathematics, Physics, Social Science or Spanish. Upon completion of the program, students receive high school and middle school endorsements in their major area of study. To further enhance marketability, students are encouraged to pursue endorsements in additional subject areas.

In addition to the required coursework for the academic major and the education minor, students also receive a solid foundation in methodologies through the following experiences

- Preclinicals: experiences involve observing and teaching under a professional teacher in an off-campus classroom setting
- Micro-teaching: the opportunity to participate in and evaluate various teaching activities
- Student Teaching: a full semester of teaching under professional guidance

As candidates progress through their program, they will develop an understanding of the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards, the Language Arts Standards for All Illinois Teachers, the Technology Standards for All Illinois Teachers and the Content-Area Standards for Educators. In addition to successful completion of their coursework, they will also develop a professional portfolio that demonstrates their growth in teaching and service to education as well as their understanding of the Illinois standards. Similarly, technology will be an integral part of their development through the use of LiveText as a part of their coursework along with the preparation of their portfolio. Their preparedness to teach will also be demonstrated through passage of the Illinois Certification Testing System's (ICTS) Basic Skills Test, Content-Area Test and Assessment of Professional Teaching Test.

Recommended Program

Secondary Certification (University Core and Education Minor; Major varies by program)

FRESHMAN ***

Composition	6
Speech Communication	3
Mathematics (MATH S105, S108 or S110)	3
American Government	3
Arts and Humanities core electives*	6
Natural Sciences core elective with Lab	6
Educational Psychology	3
	30

SOPHOMORE

Arts and Humanities core electives*	6
Natural Sciences core electives	3
Cultural Heritage (2 of HUMN 220, 230 or 240)	6
Survey of the Exceptional Child	3
History and Philosophy of Education/ Preclinical (35 hours)	4
Technology for Teachers	3
Major **	6
	31

JUNIOR

Economics	3
American History	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 250)	3
Measurement and Evaluation	3
Methods/Principles Middle School with Preclinical	3
Major**	15
	30

SENIOR

Methods/Teaching/Major Field with Pre-Clinical	3
Health/Wellness	2
Major**	15
Student Teaching (Secondary)	12
	32

Completion of degree requires a minimum of 120 semester hours.

*One course should be selected to satisfy a multicultural/Non-Western culture requirement.

**Course requirements vary by major. Approved majors are Biology, Business, Chemistry, English, Mathematics, Physics, Social Science and Spanish.

***Programs in education require successful completion of state certification exams. The Basic Skills Exam must be successfully passed prior to admission into the Teacher Education Program. This exam can be taken during the freshman year.

Several requirements on this major sheet are dictated by the state of Illinois. Changes may occur in certification requirements, therefore requiring different courses than those listed.

What does secondary certification at Benedictine offer?

The Secondary Education program at Benedictine University is a certification program that complements a major field of study. The program prepares students for a career in teaching at middle school and senior high school levels (6-12) for both public and private schools.