Secondary Education

at Benedictine University

Why study secondary education at Benedictine?

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.

What are the advantages of studying secondary education at Benedictine?

- 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 licensed 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 and a minor in education.
- Advantage of job placement aid through the Office of Career Development.
- Licensure as a teacher in Illinois.

What are the requirements for secondary education?

The student prepares for licensure in Secondary Education by completing a minor in education and academic major outside the education division. The approved majors for secondary licensure 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 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. Their preparedness to teach will also be demonstrated through passage of the Test of Academic Performance (TAP), Content-Area Test and Assessment of Professional Teaching Test.

Recommended Program

Secondary Licensure (University Core and Education minor; major varies by program)

A grade of "C" or better is required in all coursework necessary for certification.

Benedictine University recently reformed its undergraduate curriculum and implementation begins in Fall 2014. This recommended program of study is an example only and subject to change.

FRESHMAN***

Writing Colloquium	6
Speech Communication	3
Mathematics (MATH 105, 108 or 110)	3
American Government	3
Arts and Humanities Core electives*	6
Natural Sciences Core elective and Lab	6
Educational Psychology	3
	30

SOPHOMORE

Arts and Humanities Core electives*	6
Natural Sciences Core electives	3
Cultural Heritage (Two of HUMN 220, 230 or 240)	6
Survey of Exceptional Children	3
History and Philosophy of Education/ Preclinical (35 hours)	4
Technology for Teachers	3
Major **	6
Introduction to Education Seminar	0
	31

JUNIOR

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

SENIOR

Methods/Teaching/Major Field with Preclinical	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 licensure exams. The Test of Academic Performance must be successfully passed prior to admission into the Teacher Education Program. This exam can be taken during the freshman year.*

A cumulative GPA of 2.75 and a 3.0 GPA in the major are required for teacher education programs.

Changes in state licensure requirements must be met at the time they go into effect. This could change the program requirements. See your academic advisor with questions.

What does secondary licensure at Benedictine offer?

The Secondary Education program at Benedictine University is a licensure 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.