



NORTHWESTERN
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NU-TEACH Alternative Teacher Certification Program

Northwestern University's alternative certification program, NU-TEACH (Northwestern University Teacher Education Alternative for Chicago) offers a fast track to teacher certification for outstanding candidates, including career changers and recent college graduates. NU-TEACH is designed to improve urban education by preparing accomplished college graduates for the classroom.

Since NU-TEACH began in 1998, the program has placed hundreds of talented teachers in Chicago elementary, middle and high schools. The Northwestern program is offered in collaboration with the Inner-City Teaching Corps, Chicago Teaching Fellows and Chicago Public Schools.

The program prepares participants to become outstanding teachers at the elementary or secondary level. Course work emphasizes proven methods of pedagogy and the development of effective classroom skills.

Program Overview

Following a full-time summer experience of course work at Northwestern University in innovative, inquiry-based curricula, along with a supervised student teaching experience in Chicago schools, NU-TEACH participants head their own classrooms for a year under the mentorship of a master teacher. Successful completion of the year results in an initial alternative certificate, permitting participants to teach in Chicago for four years before applying for a standard certificate.

NU-TEACH participants earn a full first-year teacher's salary, and some may be eligible for federal financial aid and tuition scholarships as well.

Successful participants also earn eight graduate credits. For those who apply and are accepted, these credits may apply toward the master's degree in Northwestern University's Master of Science in Education program.

School of
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Policy

*Northwestern
University's School of
Education and Social
Policy ranks **number
seven** among graduate
schools of education
nationwide, according
to U.S. News &
World Report.*



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Program Distinctions

Outstanding features distinguish Northwestern University's alternative certificate program:

Premier curriculum

A rigorous curriculum at Northwestern's nationally ranked School of Education and Social Policy helps participants develop the knowledge and skills needed to become educational leaders. Course work emphasizes research-based methods, including inquiry-based approaches that lead to development of strong pedagogical content knowledge. Participants regularly engage in discussion with faculty and colleagues as they reflect on their teaching practices.

Personal support and mentoring

Ongoing mentoring, combined with peer coaching, video analysis and feedback, and a professional development portfolio assessment process are central to the participants' learning trajectory and unique to the NU-TEACH program. The program offers expert personalized coaching and peer networking throughout the year, and in the classroom participants benefit from expert mentoring with experienced master teachers.

Innovation

The program's course of study reflects the world-class, cutting-edge learning technologies and research at Northwestern's School of Education and Social Policy. Students have access to outstanding facilities and benefit from a uniquely collaborative approach that includes "video clubs" for reviewing teaching methods.

History of leadership

NU-TEACH prepares participants to become leaders in education. Numerous graduates have gone on to win awards including the Golden Apple Award for Teaching Excellence and the Presidential Award for Educational Excellence. Alumni are now education leaders as charter school founders, principals and school district executives.

Outstanding faculty

Faculty members in the NU-TEACH program include widely known experts in education and highly regarded professionals with extensive experience in teaching. Faculty are accessible for providing guidance and offering resources.

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Close community

The cohesiveness of the NU-TEACH cohort and the small size of the School of Education and Social Policy foster a sense of community and a spirit of knowledge sharing. Small seminars promote student interaction and opportunities for collaboration with other educators.

Curriculum

The course of study in NU-TEACH, which is a full-time program, spans three phases. The program starts with an intensive summer session of daily workshops. During the school year, interns progress to teaching with a mentor teacher while participating in semi-monthly seminars on campus. In the spring the program concludes with a final assessment.

Phase one – During an eight-week summer session beginning in June, participants in the NU-TEACH alternative certification program take two courses. Classroom learning in the afternoon complements student teaching with a mentor teacher in the morning.

- Understanding Theories and Building Practice in Pedagogical and Content Knowledge
- Building Pedagogical and Content Knowledge in Action in the Classroom

Phase two – During the school year, NU-TEACH participants are fully salaried teachers in Chicago schools, working with a mentor teacher. Classes meet twice a month, and students benefit from ongoing feedback, monitoring and observation from their mentor teacher, program professionals and Golden Apple master teachers.

- Building Pedagogical Theory and Content Knowledge in Action in Your Own Classroom
- Integrating Theory and Practice in Teaching and Student Learning: Becoming a Reflective Practitioner

Phase three – At the end of the school year, students present the portfolios they have been building throughout the year. A final assessment of the portfolio and observations determines whether students pass the program.

Successful completion of the NU-TEACH course of study counts for eight of the 15 courses required for Northwestern's Master of Science in Education degree. After completion of NU-TEACH, students who are accepted to the Master of Science in Education program have already completed more than half of the course work required for the master's degree.



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Admission

An undergraduate degree with at least a 3.0 grade point average and a passion to become a teacher are the main requirements for NU-TEACH applicants. For secondary teaching, a bachelor's degree in mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics or a related field such as accounting or engineering is required.

For the sequence beginning in June, the early application deadline is January 31, and the regular application deadline is February 28. Applicants learn of their acceptance in April. You may apply directly to Northwestern's NU-TEACH program by completing an application, which is available at www.sesp.northwestern.edu/nuteach. Required application materials include a completed form, resumé, official transcript, essays and letters of reference.

Applicants are also required to take the Illinois Certification Test according to the timing specified in the application. Applicants for preparation in elementary teaching submit scores for the Basic Skills Test, and applicants for secondary teaching submit scores for both the Basic Skills Test and a subject area test.

A limited number of partial tuition grants and fellowships are awarded to qualified candidates who apply directly to NU-TEACH and are accepted into the program.

Contact Us

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Visit Please call ahead to visit Annenberg Hall, 2120 Campus Drive, Evanston, Illinois

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