



Congratulations on beginning your higher education journey at UIC!

The Council on Teacher Education welcomes you to campus. Below is a list of common Educator Preparation Program terms. Knowing these terms will help you successfully navigate any undergraduate UIC Education Prep Program!

Council on Teacher Education (CTE)

The Council on Teacher Education (CTE) supports students and faculty in over twenty Illinois educator and school personnel preparation programs at UIC. CTE ensures UIC teacher candidates meet appropriate Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) requirements to become a licensed teacher after graduation.

Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is responsible for issuing licenses to teacher candidates. CTE works with UIC students to make sure all ISBE licensure requirements are met in order for students to be licensed teachers after graduation!

Chicago Public Schools (CPS)

CPS is the largest public employer in Chicago! CPS educates nearly 400,000 students in 700+ schools by employing over 40,000 employees. Many teacher candidates complete field experience, student teach and begin their careers in CPS.

Declare Major

Students who want to pursue teacher education program at UIC declare a Teaching of [Subject] degree within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) or College of Education (COE).

Teacher Education

Teacher Education is coursework and degree requirements that prepare a student to become a licensed teacher.

Initial Licensure Exam

Initial Licensure Exam is a test of basic skills. Initial Licensure Exams are ACT/SAT with writing or the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP). A passing score on one of these exams is required prior to candidacy.

Candidacy

Candidacy is a process to ensure all students pursuing teacher education programs meet state education requirements. Program coordinators support students to complete all necessary candidacy requirements by the deadline. After successful candidacy process, students becomes teacher candidates.

Teacher Candidates (TCs)

A Teacher Candidate is a student who is fully admitted into candidacy.

Program Coordinator (PC)

A program coordinator (PC) supports students to successfully complete teacher education programs. Each Education Prep Program at UIC has their own PC.



Field Experience (FE)

Field experiences involve activities completed outside of the college classroom, which correlate to and supplement the content being taught in that course. Most field experience is time spent in the classroom observing licensed teachers.

Cooperating Teacher (CT)

Cooperating teachers are employed, licensed teachers who mentor UIC teacher candidates during field experience and student teaching.

Student Teaching

Student teaching is a full-time experience of learning to teach in a classroom with university mentoring and supervision. The CTE Student Teaching Coordinator, the PC and the student work together to ensure teacher candidates student teach at schools that will help them achieve their career goals.

Entitlement

Entitlement is the process CTE uses when recommending a teacher candidate for a particular endorsement or license. After a student is endorsed, they can apply for their Professional Educator License (PEL) on the ISBE website.

Professional Educator License (PEL)

A Professional Educator License (PEL) is the license issued by ISBE that is required to teach in Illinois public classrooms.