



### ***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 Educator Prep Program!

#### **Candidacy**

Candidacy is a process to ensure all students pursuing educator preparation programs meet state and university program requirements. Program coordinators support students to complete all necessary candidacy requirements by the deadline and are responsible for evaluating the candidacy application materials. After a successful candidacy process, a student becomes a teacher candidate.

#### **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.

#### **Cooperating Teacher (CT)**

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

#### **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.

#### **Declare Major**

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

#### **Educator Preparation Program (EPP)**

An Illinois State Board of Education approved program that is designed to prepare both undergraduate and graduate students to become licensed educators. In conjunction with university requirements, EPPs include academic and non-academic requirements. Within each program, students complete specialized coursework in the subject matter and grade levels specific to their intended endorsement area(s).

#### **Endorsement**

Endorsements indicate the content area and grade range that an educator is qualified to teach. Endorsements are added to the Professional Educator License (PEL) at the time of entitlement. An educator can earn multiple endorsements for different content areas or grade ranges.

#### **Entitlement**

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



### **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.

### **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!

### **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 the beginning of the semester before student teaching.

### **Professional Educator License (PEL)**

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

### **Program Coordinator (PC)**

A program coordinator (PC) supports students to successfully complete educator preparation programs. Each educator preparation program at UIC has their own PC.

### **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, PC and student work together to ensure teacher candidates student teach at schools that will help them achieve their career goals.

### **Teacher Candidates (TCs)**

A teacher candidate is a student who is fully admitted into candidacy.

### **Teacher Education**

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