

TEACHING AND THE EDUCATION PROFESSION

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The Champaign Unit 4 School District has created a Teacher Education Course of Study aimed at encouraging students to enter the teaching profession. It is hoped that upon graduating from a college teacher education program, these students will return to Champaign Unit 4 schools to teach.

320 Introduction to the Education Profession: Becoming a Teacher

Course Information: ½ credit; either semester; open to grades 11 & 12; 10th grade students may enroll with consent of a course instructor

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course introduces students to the Pre-K through 12th grade teaching profession, the role of the classroom teacher, and educating today's students in a diverse society. A combination of classroom experience and structured observations in elementary schools will enable students to gain skilled knowledge in learner environments and what it means to be an effective teacher. Students will connect with Unit 4 teaching and administrative professionals on a regular basis as they experience the rewards inherent in classroom teaching. Students earning credit for this course are guaranteed a teaching interview with Unit 4 Schools upon completion of a college/university teacher education program.

321 Educating Students with Disabilities

Course Information: ½ credit; either semester; open to grades 11 & 12

Prerequisite: None

Description: The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of the characteristics and development of children with low and high incidence disabilities and how schools address their educational needs. Students will gain an understanding of distinctive disorders such as learning disabilities, attention deficit, developmental and behavior disabilities, and autism. Federal laws will be explored such as IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A combination of classroom experience and structured observations in special education classrooms will enable students to gain real world knowledge and experience.

322 Education Profession Internship

Course Information: ½ credit; either semester; open to grades 11 & 12

Prerequisite: Introduction to the Education Profession: Becoming a Teacher (320) or Educating Students with Disabilities (321)

Description: This class is centered upon a semester-long observation/student assistant experience in a Champaign Unit 4 Pre-K through middle school classroom or special education program. Efforts will be made to place students into classrooms based on their desired area of teaching interest. This may include elementary education, teaching students with special needs (IEPs), multilanguage learners (MLL), early childhood education, and middle school specific content areas. As much as possible, the curriculum will be developed around each student's interest area.

421 Dual Credit (DC) Education in a Diverse Society: The Multilingual/Multicultural Classroom

*Honors Level Course

Course Information: ½ credit; offered second semester; open to grades 11 & 12

Prerequisite: It is strongly recommended students successfully complete Introduction to the Education Profession: Becoming a Teacher (320) or Educating Students with Disabilities (321)

Description: This course explores how schooling is shaped by and ought to respond to the social contexts in which it occurs, particularly multicultural, multilingual, and global contexts. Specific topics include cultural identity and pluralism; theories of assimilation; social class and its relation to school; racial and ethnic minorities; de facto segregation and possible solutions; gender equity in schooling; sexual orientation and homophobia; youth culture; religion; language and language acquisition; and students with disabilities and those who are gifted and talented. It is offered as a dual credit course with Eastern Illinois University, allowing students to earn both high school credit and 3 hours of Eastern Illinois University credit.

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