

MEd Science Education

Strand A: For Prospective Secondary Science Teachers Seeking Licensure

About the Program

What the program offers you

The UIC Masters of Education in Instructional Leadership: Science Education prepares graduates for the opportunities and challenges of teaching science in urban high schools, with optional endorsement for teaching middle school grades. The focus on community relevance and social justice is unique among science teacher preparation programs nationally. Students have the option to complete the MEd with an Illinois teaching license in an intense 12-month program or to work at a pace that allows for other commitments.

National Science Foundation scholarship and stipend funding

Project SEEED (Science Education for Excellence and Equity in Chicago), an NSF-funded stipend and scholarship program, offers an opportunity specifically to African American and/or Latina/o non-licensed prospective science teachers to complete the MEd program with significant financial support while working with a diverse group of fellow teacher candidates. SEEED Teaching Fellows make a commitment to teaching science in Chicago Public Schools (CPS). They receive full tuition waivers for the MEd program (12-month schedule), along with a \$10K stipend during enrollment at UIC and a \$10K salary supplement for each of the first four years of teaching in CPS. Project SEEED is a partnership between faculty in UIC's Curriculum & Instruction and science departments, CPS, and several grassroots organizations including Project SYNCERE, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, Chicago Freedom School, Chicago Botanic Garden, Friends of the Chicago River, Institute for Latino Progress and Project NIA.

Nuts and Bolts

What science background is required?

The MEd program is designed for students who have a major or significant undergraduate coursework in a science field. Faculty work with you even before you apply to the program to analyze your transcripts for alignment with Illinois State Board of Education requirements for licensure.

How long does the program take and when can I get started?

It is possible to complete the MEd with a teaching license in 12-months. This option requires students to begin in the summer semester and to follow a carefully designed, intense schedule. A less intense pace with an individualized course of study is also available for students who wish to begin in the fall or spring. We admit students every semester so that you can begin right away.

What is the schedule for courses, field placement, and student teaching?

Courses are scheduled in the evenings to maximize the amount of time teacher candidates spend in schools. The 12-month schedule (or the final year of a personalized program) requires that students be in their field placement for much of the day in the summer and fall and on a full-time basis for student teaching in the spring. We make all of our field placements in CPS schools with experienced teachers.

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Nuts and Bolts (continued)

What endorsements do you offer?

Students complete at least one disciplinary science endorsement in biology, chemistry, earth & space science, environmental science, or physics. Many of our graduates have earned a second disciplinary science endorsement or additional endorsements for middle grades, English as a Second Language (ESL), or bilingual education.

How do I qualify for Project SEEED?

Project SEEED is intended to address problems of underrepresentation and teacher turnover in CPS and other urban school science classrooms. We seek African American and Latina/o prospective teachers who are committed to teaching long term in CPS in a way that is responsive to the strengths and needs of Chicago's youth and communities. Project SEEED gives priority to chemistry and physics, but other science disciplines also qualify. If you are interested, please contact us and complete the Project SEEED application along with the regular application.

Quotes from Graduates

"The Science Education MEd program at UIC provided me with many valuable learning experiences. I appreciated the professors' openness to share their firsthand experiences as educators and willingness to help me throughout my preparation in becoming a teacher. I feel that I was provided with all the tools and strategies to be a successful teacher in any setting. I learned so much and look forward to applying all I learned in my own classroom!" - **Michelle Chavez, MEd Science Education '14**

"The MEd Science Education program at UIC gave me the knowledge and skills I needed to provide an enriched science education to urban youth." - **Steven Vargas, MEd Science Education '14**

Contact

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