

Tips for Education Majors

Grades and Grade Point Averages	Questions to Ask
<p>1. A grade of “C” or above is required in all courses for an endorsement and in all courses used as a part of a program (may include general education, professional education and major content courses).</p> <p>For “admission consideration” into a formal teacher certification degree program, institutions require a minimum overall grade point average (and may require an even a higher grade point average) to enter a high demand degree program option. For example: To be considered for entry into a teacher education program, a student should have a minimum overall grade point average of at least 2.5 (4.0=A). The minimum grade point average for consideration at SIU Carbondale is 2.75.</p>	<p>Yourself and your academic advisor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which courses require a grade of “C” or better in my bachelor’s degree program option? • Should I repeat a course if I received a “D” grade? • Which four-year institution do I plan to attend? • What is the required overall GPA needed to be “considered” for admission into the four-year institution’s professional education sequence? • How does the four-year institution calculate the overall GPA (considering my current average, repeats, attending multiple institutions, forgiveness policies, etc.)? • What is the required overall GPA needed to be “competitive” for a spot in my intended program?
Testing Requirements	Minimum Test Score Results Needed for Consideration
<p>1. Students must earn a minimum or acceptable cutoff score on the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP), the ACT plus Writing or the SAT (critical reading, mathematics and writing). It is recommended that testing begin as early as the first semester or before earning 30 semester credits.</p> <p>2. If you fail a section of the TAP but pass the others, you can bank the section passed and take only the section failed in a retesting.</p> <p>3. Create an account in ELIS at: https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Educator-Licensure-Information-system.aspx Take note of your IEIN – this number will be found in the upper right corner of your account when you are logged in at a computer. https://sec3.isbe.net/IWASNET/login.aspx Follow these instructions, provided by ISBE, to have your entry test verified: http://www.isbe.net/licensure/requirements/act-sat-testing-in-lieu-of-tap.pdf</p>	<p>TAP Test Scores - Each test area (Reading, Language Arts, etc) is scored separately with a score of 240 or higher (approximately 80% of items correct) required to pass. All 4 test areas must be passed to pass the test as a whole. Results can be combined across administrations.</p> <p>OR -ACT Plus Writing – Composite score of 22 or above with at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 in Combined English/Writing for test dates prior to 9/1/15 • 16 in Writing for test dates on or after 9/1/15 • 6 in Writing for test dates on or after 09/10/2016 • The ACT the candidate takes must include the Writing Test or it cannot be used as a substitute for the TAP test. <p>OR SAT- Composite score of 1110 and a minimum score of 26 on Writing and Language Test. SAT taken before March 2016: Composite Score of 1030 with a minimum writing score of 450.</p> <p>Acceptable score reports are now valid indefinitely.</p>

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<p>4. Request your scores be sent to ISBE directly from ACT or SAT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The score report must arrive in a sealed envelope addressed to ISBE from ACT or SAT • If requesting an ACT Plus Writing score report use ACT code 3001 when ordering. • If requesting an SAT score use SAT code 6773 when ordering. • Check your ELIS Account to verify your ACT/SAT score report has been accepted in lieu of the TAP. Please allow 60 day for this information to be added. 	<p>NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superscoring is now available on ACT/SAT. If you do not have an overall passing composite score, we will add the highest subject scores from each test and divide by the total number of tests to for a composite score. Please email Licensure@isbe.net if you would like your tests superscored. • Score reports that are received prior to the establishment of an ELIS account will be held for 30 days. <i>After 30 days, the report may not be credited to your account.</i> • Official score reports that reflect a score less than listed above or lack a writing component cannot be used for issuance of an Illinois license or endorsement.
<p>Criminal Background Checks</p>	<p>Criminal Background Check Fee</p>
<p>1. Before entering a school to complete observation requirements, each student must complete a criminal background check.</p>	<p>A \$20 fee is charged to each student's account upon completion of the criminal background check.</p>
<p>2. Criminal background checks are performed at the beginning of each semester.</p>	
<p>Transferring With or Without an Associate Degree</p>	<p>Things to Know and Questions to Ask....</p>
<p><u>Associate of Arts (AA) Degree or Associate of Science Degree (AS):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • designed to include many of the basic prerequisite and required course equivalents to the lower division requirements at a four-year institution. • includes the general education component (IAI GECC package) that meets the lower division general education requirements required for general graduation purposes at all participating Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) institutions. There may be certain required general education courses in the program option you select to pursue. • <u>may</u> result in a more seamless transfer since most are designed to include many of the articulated lower division prerequisite and required courses included in a specific program/major to enter a teacher education program with junior class standing. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Know your intended transfer institution and the major you wish to pursue. 2. Determine the course requirements for the degree. 3. Get access to the transfer course equivalency information prepared by the four-year institution to see what course-to-course equivalents are offered at John A. Logan College. This will help you determine what courses can be completed at John A. Logan College that meet specific course/degree requirements at your transfer institution. <p>Ask yourself and your academic advisor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the major and institution to which I want to transfer? • What are the specific courses required to be considered for admission into a formal teacher education program at the institution I have selected?

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Transferring Without an Associate Degree (AA, AS):

- places more focus on a course-to-course evaluation to determine remaining degree requirements
- requires fulfillment of remaining general education course requirements after transferring
- requires evaluation of major related courses on a course-to-course basis

At some institutions:

- education courses do not line up as course-to-course equivalents
certain combination of courses makes a package that meets a set of courses/package at the four-year institution

- What are the advantages/disadvantages of transferring with a completed AA or AS degree?
- Can I complete the required/recommended articulated course equivalent to requirements at John A. Logan College prior to entering a four-year institution?

Ask the academic advisor/person of authority within the four-year institution's professional teacher education unit:

- Can I transfer with an Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) and be on schedule with a student with junior class standing?