

ROE 17's Spotlight on Alternative Licensure Programs

Teacher Ready

This program is perfect for those who already have a bachelor's degree and would like to earn a teaching degree. It's a completely on-line program with the University of West Florida. It's self-paced and can be completed in as little as 9 months leading to a Florida teaching license. The license is fully transferrable to Illinois. This program is the fastest and cheapest way to earn a teaching degree at less than \$6000. <http://www.teacherready.org/>

Grand Canyon University

Grand Canyon offers a 2-year masters leading to teaching licensure program. As an added bonus, if you currently are an employee of any of our districts, even as a sub, you are eligible for a 10% tuition district. This is a completely on-line program. GCU also offers a local representative to assist you with anything you need from beginning of enrollment to graduation. <http://www.gcu.edu/>

University of St. Francis

University of St. Francis offers a multitude of programs. You can choose a 2-year masters that also includes initial teaching licensure, or pick from one of their many endorsement programs for those who already have a teaching license and want to add an endorsement. Many of their courses are on-line and they have very affordable rates. Highly recommended for LBS1 endorsement coursework. <http://www.stfrancis.edu/>

University of Phoenix

They offer a 2-year master leading to initial teaching licensure program that is unique. After the 1st year, you can obtain your teaching license through Arizona and leave the program or you can continue on to receive your masters as well. Arizona has full reciprocity with Illinois for licensure. U of P has mainly on-line courses, but they are on the higher end of cost per semester hour. <http://www.phoenix.edu/>

Western Governors University

WGU offers standard 2-year masters courses leading to initial teaching licensure like many others. However, WGU offers self-paced courses to complete on your own schedule. This is a great university for those working full-time jobs already. I would not recommend attending for a middle school Math teaching license as we are having some difficulties transferring coursework from Utah to here. Your Utah teaching license will transfer to Illinois with reciprocity. <http://www.wgu.edu/>

Blackburn College

Blackburn offers a fully-online licensure program. This is an excellent program for those who already have a Bachelors degree. It's a one-year program that includes coursework, passing the edTPA and student teaching. The cost is approximately \$20,000. Offers licensure in Middle Grades, High School, and PE, Spanish and Special Education. <https://blackburn.edu/academics/teacher-licensure-program/>

The Golden Apple Acceleration Program

This program provides a path to teaching for career-changers and college seniors who commit to living and teaching in targeted school districts in southern, central, and western Illinois for four years after obtaining their teaching license. You can obtain a teaching license in 15 months and up to \$25,000 stipend to apply to coursework and/or housing. They offer job placement and mentoring the first years of teaching. <http://www.goldenapple.org/accelerators>

National Louis University

NLU offers teacher preparation programs in the 2-year master plus teaching licensure format. They offer Early Childhood Education, Elementary, Middle Grades, Secondary, and Special Education. They have on-line and blended programs. They have campuses in Chicago, Wheeling and Lisle, IL and Tampa, FL. <http://www.nl.edu>

Eastern Illinois University

EIU does not offer on-line programs. Individuals who hold a bachelors degree in English, mathematics, science, history, business, family and consumer science, technology, French, German or Spanish can enroll in EIU's Accelerated Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Licensure program that takes just one year to complete. <http://www.eiu.edu>

Relay/Graduate School of Education

Their MAT program offers the chance to be the lead teacher for the 2 years it takes to complete the program by attending online graduate classes part-time while teaching full-time at a K-12 school in Illinois. \$11,500 tuition each year. <https://www.relay.edu/programs/alternative-certification>