

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS



Educator
Preparation

It is important that candidates begin, early in their programs, to prepare for the costs associated with both classroom and field experiences. These costs include licensure tests, LiveText, criminal history investigations, travel, and appropriate clothing for professional experiences. All cost figures are estimates and subject to change.

Illinois Licensure Tests

- **Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP): \$125.** All candidates must pass the TAP by the end of the semester prior to beginning student teaching. Candidates achieving ISBE-established passing scores on the ACT or the SAT may use those scores in lieu of the TAP.
- **Content Area Tests: \$125 or more.** All candidates must pass the appropriate content area test(s) by the end of the semester prior to beginning student teaching.
 - Candidates completing the approved program in Special Education are encouraged to contact the EIU Department of Special Education regarding their testing requirements; special pricing applies to the Special Education tests.
 - A candidate adding an additional endorsement is required to pass the appropriate content area tests in that field.
- **edTPA: \$300.** The edTPA is a state-required teacher performance assessment completed during student teaching.

LiveText (E-portfolio): \$139. This is required of all teacher education candidates. The one-time fee covers the use of the license for the length of the candidate's teacher education program.

Criminal History Investigations: \$30. Candidates must submit to two fingerprint-based Criminal History Investigations:

- Prior to any field experiences in the K-12 schools (\$30);
- The semester prior to placement for student teaching (\$30); each candidate will also be required to complete an additional FBI background check with his or her specific school district.

Travel. Field experiences (also called "observations," "Block," "Core," or "Practicum") require travel to and from schools, as well as professional attire.

- Examples of course included in Field Experience I: SED 2000, MUS 2440, CTE 2000, ART 24000, ELE 2050
 - Each candidate will travel to observe classroom activities and complete specific class activities outline in course syllabi; transportation is the candidate's responsibility and the candidate should budget accordingly.
- Examples of courses included in Field Experience II & III: SED 3330, ELE 3100, ELE 350, ELE 4100, MLE 4100; content methods classes for secondary education and P-12 programs.
 - Each candidate must travel to his/her practicum placement; travel may be up to 60 miles each way (up to five days per week for six weeks); carpooling may be available but all carpoolers are expected to share expenses.
- Student teaching: Each candidate provides his/her own transportation to and from the student teaching placement. Each candidate is to meet all expectations for student teaching assignments (e.g., parent-teacher conferences, music competitions, and after-school activities). Each candidate is expected to attend the student teaching seminars at the locations established by his/her university coordinator.

Professional dress. The following is a list of guidelines that candidates are to follow:

- Clothing should be neat, clean, and reflect a mature, professional attitude.
- Clothing should be conservative—collared shirts for males, no low-rise pants, low-cut shirts, or revealing clothing.
- Shoes should appear professional—gym shoes are only appropriate in a P.E. setting; no flip flops.
- Each student teacher must abide by the guidelines and standards set by the school system and specific school to which he/she is assigned. Each student teacher has an obligation to become informed at the beginning of the student teaching assignment regarding these guidelines and standards and to observe them throughout the student teaching experience. Good grooming, including personal hygiene, is expected of all student teachers. Dress should be conservative and allow for each and comfortable movement.

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