

**Eastern Illinois University**  
Charleston, Illinois

The Science with Teacher Certification, Specialization in Physics program at Eastern Illinois University prepares students to teach physics and other science subjects at the high school level. The program employs one full time faculty member working predominately in the area of science teacher preparation, plus additional physics faculty who teach the Physics Lab Practicum course for physics teacher certification majors, and who also serve as research mentors for teacher certification students who elect to do optional research projects.

Currently, there are three required undergraduate science teaching methods courses totaling five semester hours: (PHS3400: Methods of Teaching Physical Sciences, taught by the program coordinator; PHY3500: Physics Laboratory Practicum, taught by a physics faculty member; and CHM3100: Practicum in Chemistry, taught by a chemistry faculty member). The average yearly enrollment in Eastern's physics teacher certification program is eight with one or two graduating from the program each year.

Eastern's physics teaching program provides a thorough study of representative fields of physics (21 semester hours), and requires additional study of earth science (11 semester hours), life science (12 semester hours), chemistry (11 semester hours), and math (14 semester hours). The required program of study integrates a minimum concentration of 55 semester hours of science content courses (not including physics/science teaching methods courses) with a professional education sequence of 13 to 17 semester hours and a general education requirement of 30 semester hours. Additionally, a total of at least 100 clock hours of clinical experiences in high schools are required. Physics teacher certification majors must complete 12 to 16 full weeks of student teaching in physics. Upon graduation, physics teacher education majors earn a BS degree in Science with Teacher Certification, Specialization in Physics. The University also offers an alternative route to teacher certification. Graduates of the program are qualified to teach introductory and advanced high school physics courses, as well as introductory courses in biology, chemistry and earth science.

The standard program of study for physics teacher certification majors at Eastern Illinois University may be found at: <http://www.eiu.edu/~physics/TCRegular.html>. Teacher education coursework generally begins during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the sophomore year and continues through student teaching. Key features of the learning experience at EIU include instruction in small class settings by PhD faculty devoted to the instruction of undergraduates, research opportunities for undergraduate students based upon a student's interests, opportunities for employment within the department (including grading homework, lab set-up, etc.), opportunities to participate in clubs, such as the Society of Physics Students and the Astronomy Club, and the opportunity to participate in activities at the Physics Department's observatory.

Eastern Illinois University and the Science with Teacher Certification, Specialization in Physics program are accredited by NCATE and ISBE.

For further information about the physics teacher education program at Eastern Illinois University, visit our web page at the following web address: [www.eiu.edu/~physics/](http://www.eiu.edu/~physics/). For additional information not available through this web page, contact us by email, phone or writing to:

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