

Northern Illinois University

DeKalb, Illinois

The Northern Illinois University Physics Department's certification program is open to both undergraduate and graduate students. Students completing the Physics certification program must have an appropriate bachelor's degree but it need not be in the physics secondary teaching emphasis. Over the years, approximately half the students seeking certification have been graduate students. The degree emphasis of the undergraduate students completing certification has been equally split between professional physics or applied physics and secondary teaching. The program has been growing but over the last five years approximately 5 students per year have completed the program and become licensed physics teachers.

Students seeking secondary certification in physics must have a Bachelor's degree in Physics (or its equivalent), complete an endorsement in at least one other area of science and complete the following courses totaling 14 hours. The Physics Department Discipline Coordinator teaches the majority of the courses.

- PHYS 201 -The Professional Science Teacher
- PHYS 301 - The Interdisciplinary Science Teacher
- PHYS 401 -The Role of the Physics Teacher
- PHYS 490 - The Nature of Science Across Time and Culture
- PHYS 493 - Interdisciplinary Teaching of Secondary Science
- PHYS 494 - The Use of Technology in the Teaching of Physical Science
- PHYS 495 - Methods of Teaching Physical Science
- PHYS 496 -Transition to Professional Science Teaching

The Discipline Coordinators of the Biology and Geology certification programs are also involved in teaching PHYS 490 and 493. It is believed that having experienced science teachers from different disciplines better prepares physics teachers for the type of teaching assignments they will have in the future. All of the Discipline Coordinators in secondary science are former high school science teachers.

Northern Illinois University is accredited by NCATE and the physics certification program is accredited the National Science Teachers Association and the Illinois State Board of Education.

For further information about the physics teacher education program at Northern Illinois University, visit our web page at the following web address:
<http://131.156.85.98/~scienceed/>

For additional information not available through this webpage, contact us by phone, letter, or e-mail at:

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