



NATIONAL  
LOUIS  
UNIVERSITY

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# NATIONAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION PREPARING EXCEPTIONAL TEACHERS

“I knew I wanted a career that would take me places, push me beyond my limits, and make a difference. I found that with teaching, and I found that at NLU in the National College of Education.”

— Luis Bonilla, M.A.T. in Early Childhood Education

We have all experienced it: the wonder, awe and love of learning, inspired by an amazing teacher. At the National College of Education, we know great teachers once started as teacher candidates who developed expertise over time. We provide an essential foundation for aspiring educators to learn the art and science of teaching. Our graduates are prepared to work meaningfully with their peers, faculty, and the community to help children reach their true potential.

## THE NATIONAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION DIFFERENCE

Since pioneering the kindergarten movement in the 1880s, NLU has continually innovated to ensure that new teachers are well prepared to provide the best learning environments for Pre-K to 12 students.

We collaborate with schools and districts throughout Chicagoland to ensure our programs align to the needs of today's children, classrooms, and in-demand fields. NLU faculty embed field engagement and practice-based teaching throughout the curriculum. Our Adaptive Cycles of Teaching (ACT) model, first established in B.A. in Elementary Education Reading classrooms, leverages inquiry, technology, and explicit attention to evidence of student learning to help candidates experiment, reflect, and refine their teaching practice.

Our candidates earn the Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL) in early childhood, elementary, middle grades, secondary and special education, combined with a B.A. or M.A.T. degree. State approved and nationally accredited, NLU's teacher preparation programs typically include teaching methods, assessment, curriculum development and planning, practicum and student teaching. Our M.A.T. candidates usually complete their program in 1–2 years with a combination of full and part-time opportunities that accommodate working adults.

## A REWARDING AND PRACTICAL PROFESSIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

NLU pairs a strong academic curriculum with individualized support to ensure our students succeed in reaching their professional goals. We offer meaningful connections among candidates, access to accomplished faculty in small group settings, a robust and growing alumni network, and valuable school and community partnerships that pave the way to high-impact teaching careers. Although NLU is often the first step in a career as a licensed teacher, it need not be the last. We prepare educators across their professional journeys, offering a wide array of master's and doctoral degrees, endorsements and specialized pathways.

## FLEXIBLE PROGRAMS

We understand many of our students balance work, family and friends with NLU classes, so we strive to ensure our offerings are convenient. With evening and weekend on-campus, online, and blended delivery options, our technology-enabled courses are designed to make scheduling work for everyone.

## CAREER READY

Our diverse student body, regardless of being a first time student or a career changer, leave NLU career-ready. Over 95% of our candidates pass the challenging edTPA exam required for a professional educator's license on the first try. Our highly skilled graduates go on to educate and empower students in classrooms at public, private, charter and independent schools throughout Illinois and beyond.

Recent research shows cooperating teacher's perceptions of their student teachers are predictive of their performance as first-year teachers. Here's what a few cooperating teachers have to say about their student teachers from NLU:

*"My student teacher was wonderful. She came in with a lot of knowledge and effectively reflected on her teaching and my feedback to show a lot of growth during her student teaching experience."*

*"I was truly blown away by how prepared my student teacher was for her student teaching experience. I think this due to the quality of the program at NLU. Her lessons incorporated higher level thinking skills, scaffolding, student interest, etc."*

*"My student teacher was very professional, prepared, and ready to learn and teach on a daily basis. We were so impressed with her that we actually hired her as a full time teacher next year at our school."*

## NATIONAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION—DEGREES AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### TEACHER PREPARATION

#### UNDERGRADUATE (B.A.)

- ▶ Early Childhood Education
- ▶ Early Childhood Practice
- ▶ Elementary Education
- ▶ Special Education

#### GRADUATE (M.A.T.)

- ▶ Early Childhood Education
- ▶ Elementary Education
- ▶ Middle Grades Education
  - Language Arts
  - Mathematics
  - Science
  - Social Sciences
- ▶ Secondary Education
  - Biological Science
  - English
  - Foreign Language
  - Mathematics
  - Physical Science
  - Social Science
- ▶ Special Education

### ADVANCED PROGRAMS

#### GRADUATE (M.Ed./Ed.S.)

- ▶ Administration and Supervision
  - School Leadership: Pre K-12 Principal Credential (IL and FL)
  - General School Leadership
- ▶ Curriculum and Instruction with Advanced Professional Specializations
  - Multiple Majors
- ▶ Early Childhood Administration
- ▶ Learning Sciences Education
  - Learning Technologies Coach
  - Learning Technologies for Teachers
- ▶ Mathematics Education
- ▶ Reading, Language, and Literacy
  - Reading Specialist
  - Reading Teacher

- ▶ School Psychology
- ▶ Special Education
- ▶ Teacher Leadership
- ▶ Teaching, Learning, and Assessment
- ▶ Urban Teaching

#### DOCTORAL (Ed.D.)

- ▶ Educational Leadership
  - District Leadership: Pre K-12 Superintendent Credential
  - Leadership for Learning and Organizational Development
- ▶ School Psychology
- ▶ Teaching and Learning
  - Curriculum, Advocacy, and Policy
  - Disability and Equity in Education
  - Postsecondary Teaching
  - Reading and Language

#### ENDORSEMENTS

- ▶ Bilingual Education
- ▶ English as a

- Second Language
- ▶ Mathematics Education\*
- ▶ Pre K-12 Principal\*
- ▶ Pre K-12 Superintendent\*
- ▶ Reading Specialist\*
- ▶ Reading Teacher
- ▶ School Counselor\*
- ▶ Special Education
  - Director of Special Education
  - Early Childhood Special Education
  - Learning Behavior Specialist I
  - Learning Behavior Specialist II
- ▶ Subsequent Teaching (Focused Programs)
  - Elementary Education
  - Early Childhood Education
  - Middle Grades Education
  - Secondary Education
  - Special Education
- ▶ Teacher Leader
- ▶ Technology Specialist\*

\* Endorsements are offered in conjunction with degree programs. Select stand-alone endorsements available.