

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Teacher Certification in Biology

ILAS 201: FIRST CLINICAL APPLICATION

Application Form and Guidelines

Course Description:

ILAS 201 is a course which introduces students to the world of teaching; the course emphasizes breadth, not depth. Students will develop a basic understanding of the life of a public school teacher. Therefore, students will investigate several aspects of public school teaching, particularly the parameters of professionalism, the rigors of preparation, and the demands of performance. Six class meeting will address these issues. A twenty hour clinical observation component is the heart of this course.

Important Note:

The teacher certification programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences prepare students to become exceptional professionals. As a student in a teacher certification program at Northern Illinois University, you are a representative of the university in the public schools. You are permitted in the schools as prospective teachers because the teachers and administrative staff of those schools have confidence in the quality of our programs. Students exhibiting unprofessional behavior in the clinical will be removed from the course.

You need to know the following before you register for the course:

1. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Office of Teacher Certification is responsible for your school placement. Your high school and middle school assignments may be in two different districts. You may have to travel an hour or so to your sites. Every effort will be made to avoid this situation, but there is no guarantee that your school placement will be close to your home. Please note that you do not make arrangements for your own placements, but you will need to provide your own transportation to the clinical sites.
2. Attendance is required at all class meetings. All six sessions are on Mondays from approximately 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM.
3. Your school assignments will be distributed at the initial seminar. You will receive the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of your assigned schools. All subsequent work for the semester also will be explained at this first meeting. You may lose your placement if you do not attend the first class meeting.
4. Your grade in ILAS 201 (S or U) is reported by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. It is assigned based the evaluations of your course instructor and your cooperating teachers in the public schools, and on the quality of your written work. No one will receive a grade of S who has not satisfactorily met the requirements for the clinical observations and seminars.

Application Process for ILAS 201:

A permit number is required to register for ILAS 201. To receive this permit number, you must complete the application documents and submit them to your discipline coordinator (see below). Read and follow these directions precisely. Your application is a representation of you as a professional. To make that image a positive one, compose your personal statement carefully.

DISCIPLINE COORDINATOR:

Dr. Jon S. Miller
Department of Biological Sciences
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115

OFFICE PHONE: (815) 753-7828

EMAIL: BiologyCert@niu.edu

The application form is provided on line. Enter the appropriate information on the biographical form and compose a personal statement discussing your reasons for considering a career in teaching. Your personal statement should be one or two double spaced pages in length. Use a 12 point font and have one inch margins. Direct yourself to an audience of adult professionals that includes your discipline coordinator and your prospective cooperating teachers for ILAS 201. Save this document for future reference.

Proof read the biographical information and personal statement carefully before submitting copies to your discipline coordinator. Make 5 high quality copies on plain white paper. Be sure to make a copy for your records.

Do not make 5 copies of the directions and do not submit 5 copies of the directions to the discipline coordinator.

Return 5 copies of the completed application (the biographical data form and your personal statement is one copy) to your discipline coordinator. Ask for a permission to register document. This document includes the reference number for ILAS 201 and has the dates and times of the class meetings. You will need the reference number to register for ILAS 201 through MyNIU. Register as soon as possible.

