

Illinois State University

Normal, Illinois

The Physics Teacher Education program at Illinois State University (ISU) prepares students to teach physics and other high school science subjects. The ISU Physics Department has two staff members working predominately in the area of physics teacher preparation. Of these individuals, one is a full-time employee and the other a half-time employee. In addition, there are over 40 undergraduate majors enrolled in the physics teacher education program. Over the past five years, the average number of physics teaching majors graduating per year in this large and growing program has been 5.0.

Currently, there are 6 required undergraduate physics teaching methods courses totaling 12 semester hours. All are taught by PTE program personnel – both former high school physics teachers:

- PHY 209 – *Introduction to Teaching High School Physics*
- PHY 302 – *Computer Applications in High School Physics*
- PHY 310 – *Readings for Teaching High School Physics*
- PHY 311 – *Teaching High School Physics*
- PHY 312 – *Physics Teaching from the Historical Perspective*
- PHY 353 – *Student Teaching Seminar*

Our physics teaching program provides a thorough study of representative fields of physics, and requires additional study in the areas of chemistry, astronomy, geology, and biology. The required program of study integrates a minimum concentration of 42 semester hours of science content courses (not including physics/science teaching methods courses) with a professional education sequence of 12 semester hours and a general education requirement of 42 semester hours. A total of 100+ clock hours of clinical experiences in high schools are associated with required physics methods and education courses. Physics teacher education majors must complete not less than ten full weeks of student teaching in physics. Upon graduation, physics teacher education majors earn a Bachelor's degree in Physics. Graduates are permitted to teach introductory and advanced high school courses in physics, and any introductory courses in biology, chemistry, earth & space science, and environmental science.

The standard program of study for physics teacher education majors at Illinois State University begins with a physics methods courses during the fall semester of the sophomore year and continues each semester through student teaching. Key features of the program include a PHY 209 service learning project, a PHY 209 urban field trip experience, a PHY 311 lesson study project, and a PHY 353 social context project.

Illinois State University is accredited by NCATE and the physics teaching 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 Illinois State University, visit our web page at the following web address: <http://phy.ilstu.edu/pte/>. For additional information not available through this web page, contact us by phone, letter, or e-mail at:

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