

Becoming a Science Teacher Who is Licensed for High School Science Instruction

Here is an overview of the pathway for UNCG undergraduate students who would like to teach science in high school: you will select a science major and complete its requirements. In addition, you will meet the requirements for Comprehensive Science Licensure by completing the STEP (Secondary Teacher Education Program), along with student-teaching. The following is a brief description of the stages in your UNCG adventure toward completing your degree and being awarded your teacher license.

First, you choose a science major, e.g., Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Integrated Science (a special program in Liberal Studies). Throughout your time at UNCG, your progress through the requirements for your science degree will be directed by an advisor who is a faculty member in your selected discipline.

Second, you must maintain the best possible grades. You must earn at least a 2.5 overall GPA and at least a 2.5 GPA in the classes in your major (except in physics: 2.0 GPA in physics and math classes).

Third, you will also work closely with a second academic advisor in secondary teacher education, who will guide you in the stages leading up to your application for admission to Teacher Education.

Fourth, you will be required to undergo a background check.

Fifth, upon admission to Teacher Education and enrolled in your first teacher-education course (junior year), you will be placed into an internship that will lead to your student-teaching assignment.

Sixth, after you graduate, with your teaching license in hand, you will be ready to make a huge difference to the many high-school students who will cross your pathway after college.

OVERALL:

Freshman year – select major, get started on its requirements, and make progress on GEC and CAR.

Sophomore year – continue progress on major, GEC and CAR. Pass PRAXIS I, if needed. Complete your background check and your application to Teacher Education.

Junior year - Fall: continue progress on major, GEC and CAR, and begin STEP courses.
Spring: Apply to be a student teacher, continue major, GEC, CAR and STEP courses.

Senior year- Fall: Continue major, GEC, CAR and STEP courses.
Spring: intensive, full-time student teaching

It can be a challenge to meet all of the requirements for science teaching licensure, and students should be prepared for a stimulating sequence of work. Students seeking to study abroad should attempt to schedule that experience in the summer or in their sophomore year.

Note: Currently, there are \$10,000 scholarships available through Project ExSEL for junior and senior science majors who are pursuing licensure. Go to <http://soe.uncg.edu/exsel/>

Biology majors: contact John Lepri at jilepri@uncg.edu for more information.