

**Northern Illinois University**  
**Special Education**  
**McHenry County College Transfer Guide**  
**(2018/2019 Catalog)**

Department of Special and Early Childhood Education  
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**Transfer guides are produced as a service to MCC students. Every effort is made to maintain up-to-date and accurate information; however, this information is subject to change. Such changes take precedence over the information on this guide. Students should work with an MCC advisor and the four-year transfer school. Responsibility for complying with all applicable requirements ultimately rests with the student.**

This transfer plan is designed as an advising tool for students who plan to major in Special Education through the Department of Special and Early Childhood Education at Northern Illinois University. NIU's Special Education program includes two emphases: Learning Behavior Specialist I (LBS I) and Vision Impairments. The LBS I cross-categorical emphasis prepares students to obtain an Illinois educator license with entitlement as a Learning Behavior Specialist I (Preschool - age 21). The emphasis in Vision Impairments prepares students to obtain educator license with entitlement in the area of Teacher of Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired (Preschool - age 21). A student who completes the Bachelor of Science in Education degree with a major in Special Education qualifies for the State of Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL) with an endorsement in Learning Behavior Specialist I (LBS1) – P-21.

### **Transfer Options**

- **Guaranteed Admission** - Provides MCC students with the opportunity for guaranteed admission to the University and academic advisement from both MCC academic advisors and NIU transfer personnel.
- **AA or AS Degree** - Transfer students who receive an AA or an AS degree from an Illinois public community college, have a minimum of 60 semester hours of transfer credit, have not previously attended NIU, are in good standing at the last college attended, and have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or higher are guaranteed the following:
  - Junior status
  - Lower division NIU General Education requirements satisfied (Special Education majors require specific courses.)
- **Illinois Articulation Initiative** - Transfer students who enter NIU as first time students with the IAI General Education Core Curriculum (IAI GECC) completed are considered to have completed NIU's general education requirements. Special Education majors require specific courses.
- **For students who transfer prior to completing an AA or an AS degree or the IAI core:**
  - NIU credit can be transferred back to MCC for completion of the AA or the AS degree. Ask your MCC academic advisor about the Reverse Transfer Agreement partnership with NIU.
  - If only a portion of the IAI GECC is completed upon transfer, NIU will evaluate on a course by course basis to see how each course fits into NIU's General Education.

### **Admission Notes**

- Students must be admitted to Northern Illinois University through the Office of Admissions.
- **Application deadlines:** Fall (July 15), Spring (November 15), Summer (May 1)  
All required documents must be on file at NIU by the deadline dates. Early application is recommended.

### **Additional Information**

- Before beginning professional courses and registering for special education methods and clinical coursework, a minimum 2.5 NIU cumulative GPA is required, a passing score report on the Illinois Test of Academic Proficiency requirement, completion of the following course: SESE240 (EDU253 - grade of C or better), a safety tutorial prior and TB clearance prior to the first clinical experience.
- The Special Education professional sequence is 2 years, and there is one semester of prerequisites that contain courses only available at NIU. Students should plan on a minimum of 2 ½ years at NIU.

- **Basic Skills Testing Requirement - Documented passing scores on one of the following basic skills exams is required prior to student teaching.** Transfer students are **strongly encouraged** to successfully complete this requirement before transferring to NIU.
  - **Illinois Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP)**
  - **ACT w/ writing**
    - ACT Plus Writing with composite Score of 22 or higher and minimum of 6 in writing – Two score reports may be submitted: one with a passing composite score and one with a passing writing score. (Note: ACT changed its scoring for the writing portion. Prior to 9/1/16, the scoring for the writing portion was 16.)
    - If ACT was taken prior to 9/1/15 – ACT Plus Writing with minimum composite score of 22 and minimum score of 19 on English/Writing portion
  - **SAT** composite score of 1110 (evidence based Reading and Writing + Math) and a minimum score of 26 on Writing and Language. (Note: SAT changed its scoring. Prior to 5/5/16, scoring was SAT composite score of 1030 (critical reading + mathematics = 1030 or higher) and a minimum score of 450 on writing.)
  - **Superscoring is now available on ACT/SAT.** If you do not have an overall passing composite score, the ISBE will add the highest subject scores from each test and divide by the total number of tests for a composite score. You must email [Licensure@isbe.net](mailto:Licensure@isbe.net) if you would like your tests superscored.
  - Scores must come from the same assessments. For example, a passing composite ACT score and a passing SAT writing score is not acceptable.
- **Grade requirement** - A grade of C or better is necessary for all coursework required for a teaching licensure degree program. This requirement includes most general education and all professional courses.
- **GPA Calculation** – NIU uses the sending institutions transcribed cumulative GPA for admission purposes.
- **Maximum hours from a community college** - Up to 66 academic semester hours from a community college and 4 semester hours of physical education activity credits may be applied toward a degree at NIU.
- **Catalog Rule** - Students may choose the NIU catalog which was in effect when they became freshmen at their original school or any later NIU catalog, providing they were enrolled during the catalog year of their choice. The catalog year must not precede enrollment at NIU by more than three years. Students may elect to satisfy all graduation requirements from a single catalog or major and minor requirements from one and general education requirements from a second. **Please note that mandatory Illinois state standards for teacher education majors takes precedence over the Catalog Rule.**
- Program requirements are subject to change by Illinois State Board of Education.

**Education Plan** -Please refer to MCC's current academic catalog for IAI and Diversity & Multicultural Studies options and detailed AA degree requirements.

MCC AA Degree Requirements			
MCC Courses	Credits	MCC Courses	Credits
<b><u>Communications</u></b>		<b><u>Diversity &amp; Multicultural Studies</u></b>	
____ ENG151 Composition I	3	Two 3-credit hour courses are required. Courses that fulfill this requirement may be used to satisfy requirements in Humanities/ Fine Arts, Social/Behavioral Sciences, or Electives. See current MCC catalog or AA planning sheet for course options.	
____ ENG152 Composition II	3		
____ SPE151 Intro to Speech	3		
<b><u>Humanities &amp; Fine Arts</u></b>		<b><u>Electives</u></b>	
____ IAI Humanities	3	____ CDM110 + 205 Comp Lit + Intro to Tech in Ed (NIU offers a competency exam)	4
____ IAI Fine Arts	3	____ EDU253 Children with Exceptionalities	3
____ IAI Humanities or Fine Arts	3	____ EDU255 Diversity of Schools (EDU251 is prereq for EDU255; not an NIU requirement but gives students good exposure to the profession)	3
<b><u>Physical and Life Sciences</u></b> (7-8 credits) (7 credits required, at least 1 course w/lab)		____ Electives to satisfy 60 credit requirement for AA degree	
____ IAI Physical Science	3-4		
____ IAI Life Science	3-4		
<b><u>Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences</u></b>		<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>60</b>
____ HIS170 US History I or HIS172 US History II	3	60 credits required for an MCC AA degree.	<b>required</b>
____ PLT151 US Government	3		
____ PSY151 Intro to Psychology	3		
<b><u>Mathematics</u></b>			
____ MAT201 Math Foundations for EI Ed I	3		
____ MAT202 Math Foundations for EI Ed II	3		