

Comparison of Teacher Education Programs

| | Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program (ISAC program) ₤ | Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) Program (ISAC program) ∡ | TEACH Grant Program (Federal program) | Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Program (ISAC/Golden Apple program) |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| Priority Application Deadline Date and Eligible Colleges | March 1 prior to start of the academic year (must reapply each year) at an ISAC-approved Illinois public or private college | March 1 prior to start of the academic year (must apply only once) at an ISAC- approved Illinois public four-year college offering a concentration in special education | No deadline date – eligibility determined by FAFSA completion for attendance at any college participating in the TEACH Grant Program | Nominations must be received by the deadline date, prior to the student's high school graduation or during their sophomore year in college - Illinois public and private colleges |
| Enrollment Requirements | At least half time as an undergraduate or graduate student | as an undergraduate or graduate student within 10 days of the beginning of the term following receipt of the waiver | No minimum enrollment requirement as an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate or graduate student | Full time as an undergraduate |
| Award Amount (cannot exceed the cost of attendance) | Up to \$5,000 per year for a maximum of 8 semesters or 12 quarters to cover tuition, fees, room and board | Exemption from paying tuition and mandatory fees for up to 4 calendar years at one of the public four-year colleges in Illinois that offer a concentration in special education | Up to \$4,000 per year for a maximum of \$16,000 for undergraduate and/or post-baccalaureate study; \$8,000 maximum for graduate study | \$2,500 per year for freshmen and sophomores, \$5,000 per year for juniors and seniors, for a maximum of 4 years to cover tuition, fees, room and board |
| Awarding Criteria | Funds awarded to timely renewal applicants first, and then in date received order until funds are exhausted, with a preference given to those in junior status and above; at least 30% of allocated funds reserved for male students (on January 1 of each fiscal year reserved funds may be awarded to female applicants) | 210 awards given each year to students enrolled as undergraduate or graduate students seeking initial certification in any area of special education; 40 awards given each year to certified teachers (not certified in special education). | None | Golden Apple Foundation selects high school and college students each year, according to their guidelines |
| Program of Study | Seeking certification as a teacher at the preschool, elementary or secondary school level or pursuing additional course work needed to gain ISBE* approval to teach, including alternative teacher certification | Seeking initial teacher certification in a special education discipline | Enrolled in coursework necessary to begin career in teaching | Seeking initial certification as a teacher at the preschool, elementary, middle or secondary level or pursuing additional course work needed to gain ISBE* approval to teach, including alternative teacher certification |
| Teaching Commitment | Teach full time (one year for each year in which scholarship assistance was received) in a nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool, elementary or secondary school with at least 30% minority enrollment; begin teaching within one year following termination of the academic program of study funded by the scholarship, and teach full time on a continuous basis until the obligation is fulfilled | Begin teaching on a full-time basis, in the field of special education, within one year following graduation from or termination of enrollment in a teacher education program, at a recognized nonprofit public, private or parochial preschool, elementary, or secondary school in Illinois, and continue teaching for at least two of the five years immediately following | Teach full time in a high-need field** in a public or private elementary or secondary school or educational service agency that serves low-income students for at least four years within eight calendar years after completing program of study for which grant was received | Teach for five years in a nonprofit public, private or parochial preschool, or a public elementary, middle or secondary school of need in Illinois, as defined by the Golden Apple Foundation |
| Repayment (if teaching commitment not fulfilled) | Interest at a rate equal to 5%, accrues from repayment date | Interest at a rate equal to 5%, accrues from repayment date | Conversion to Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loan with interest rate equal to current Direct loan rate, accrues from disbursement date | Interest at a rate equal to 5%, accrues from repayment date |

^{*} ISBE - Illinois State Board of Education

^{**} High-need fields are identified on the TEACH Grant Program page at studentaid.ed.gov

Students cannot receive an award from more than one ISAC teacher program during the same term