

Teacher Licensure in **WORLD**

LANGUAGES

for Northwestern Students



Rebekah Stathakis

Director, Teacher Preparation Programs

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Agenda:

1. Introductions & Program History
2. Need for World Language Educators
3. Pathways at NU
4. Requirements
5. Next Steps
6. Questions

Introduction & History with Program

Rebekah Stathakis

Director of Teacher Preparation Programs
Former middle school Spanish teacher!



Introduction & History with Program

Gabriela Langendorf

Manager, Teacher Licensure

Former high school math teacher!





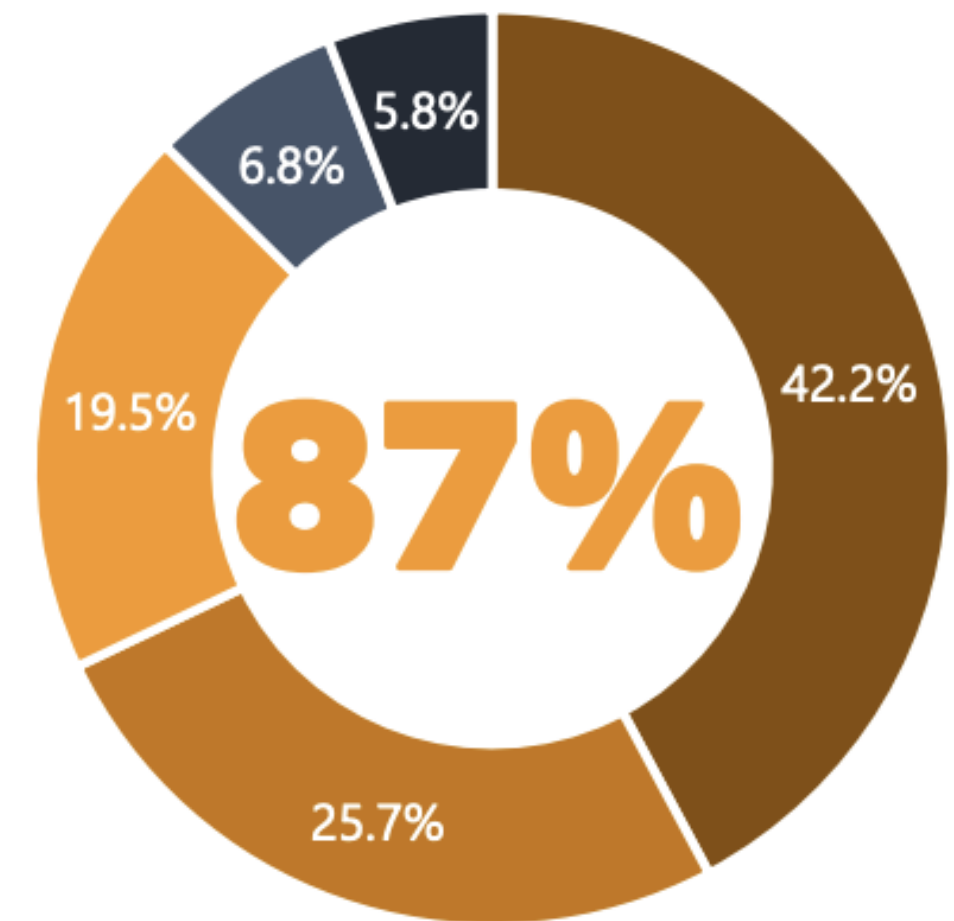
The Need for Language Educators

The Need for World Language Educators

- World Language instruction is vital.
- Illinois continues to face a shortage of language educators (world language, bilingual, and ESL)

Figure 1: Leaders' Perceptions of Teacher⁵ Shortages

87% of education leaders indicated a **minor**, **serious** or **very serious** problem with teacher⁵ shortages.



CPS Vacancies in September for the 24-25 School Year

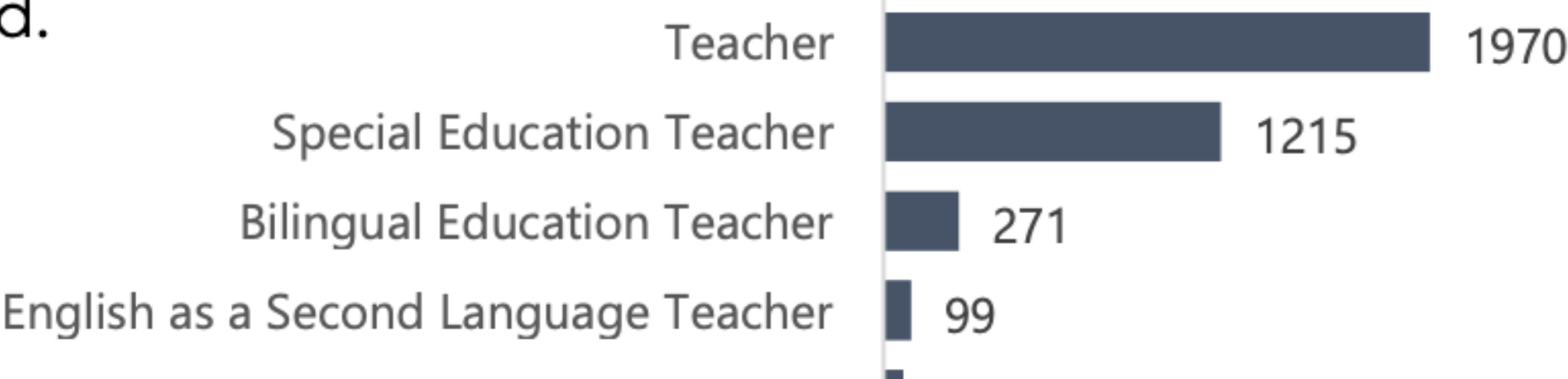
By Job Category*

Job Category	Vacancies
Clinician	72.0
Bilingual	50.5
Science	38.5
Math	37.0
Arts	47.5
Early Childhood	25.0
Physical Ed	42.0
Counselor	17.5
Special Ed	265.5
Library	4.0
World Language	21.5

*Not every job fits one of these categories and some fit multiple categories.

Figure 3: Top 10 Unfilled Teaching Positions

For the 2024 - 2025 school year, 1,970 teaching positions were unfilled.



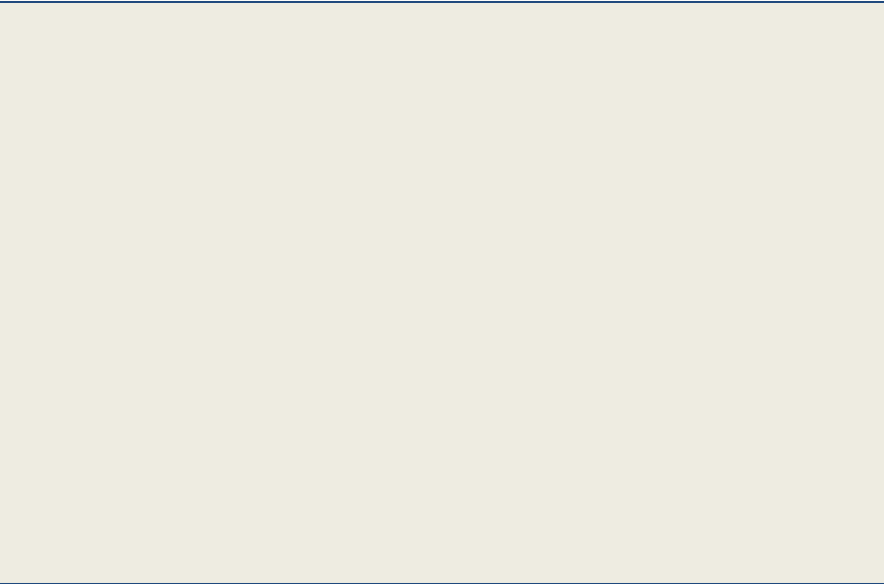
SPRINGFIELD – Matt Plater has been in charge of school districts for more than two decades. Something is happening he’s never seen before. Jobs that used to draw hundreds of applications now get a dozen. More specialized positions might not get any at all.

“It’s horrible,” he said. “This is my 23rd year as a superintendent in Illinois and this is the worst it’s ever been.”

Plater oversees Havana Community Unit School District 126, a small district in Mason County with about 1,000 students spread across three schools. [In 2020, the district couldn’t find a Spanish teacher, so they contracted with an outside company to offer remote instruction.](#)

Students worked in a classroom with an in-person monitor while they worked online. They’ve [cycled through four Spanish teachers in five years.](#)

Related Posts





Pathways at Northwestern



Pathways at Northwestern

- There is a long history of a partnership between SESP and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. The Spanish department provides the content area development and SESP offers the teacher education coursework and practicum.
- We also have an interrupted history with the French department (and German).

Four Main Pathways



1. Bachelor's of Choice (WCAS) + Teaching License

- Earn your bachelor's degree from any of Northwestern's schools.
- Work with our licensure manager to complete teaching licensure requirements



2. SESP BSEd with Teaching Concentration

- Earn your Bachelor of Science in Education and Social Policy degree in SESP.
- Complete the teaching concentration in PK-12 World Language Teaching



3. Bachelor's and Accelerated MEd

- Earn your Bachelor's degree from any of Northwestern's schools. While you complete your bachelor's, complete up to 6 units of your master's degree.
- After earning your bachelor's, finish remaining master's requirements. With careful planning, complete an Accelerated MEd with as few as 9 units over three quarters.



4. Traditional MEd

- Earn your bachelor's degree from any of Northwestern's schools.
- Complete your master's degree following our traditional sequence.
- Some students proceed directly to the master's while others take time away from NU between degrees.

Student Spotlight: Selena

Northwestern Graduate, 2020

Spanish Teaching

Chicago Public Schools Spanish Teacher

PhD Candidate at UIC in Literacy, Language, & Culture



What was your path to classroom teaching?

I completed the Teaching program in SESP. I decided to become a teacher because I always had a passion for education, being in the classroom and helping younger kids. Everything I did was surrounding efforts to support schools and students and I knew I had to continue on that path.

Student Spotlight: Selena



What other interests did you have at NU?

I was involved in supplies for dreams, center for talent development, and Kappa Delta Chi.

What advice do you have for prospective teachers?

The world always needs teachers; students need people who are genuine, passionate, and caring. The future of the world lies in the hands of teachers, we help to shape the minds of those who will lead the world one day. Teaching is hard at times, but it is also rewarding all of the time.



Requirements



Key Requirements

- Students need to enter NU with language experience.
- Prior to student teaching, students need to reach **Advanced-Low or higher on the OPI.**



Key Requirements

- Completing a major in a world language will typically include all of the content requirements for licensure.

12 Spanish language, literature, and culture and civilization courses, including at least 5 at the 300 level:

3 courses chosen from but not limited to:

<u>SPANISH 200-0</u>	Advanced Spanish for Heritage Language Learners
<u>SPANISH 201-0</u>	Advanced Spanish I: Contemporary Latin America
<u>SPANISH 202-0</u>	Conversation on Current Topics
<u>SPANISH 204-0</u>	Advanced Spanish II: Activism in Times of Political Change
<u>SPANISH 208-0</u>	Spanish and the Community



Key Requirements

- Students should work with Gaby to plan out their teacher education course requirements.

Professional Core (12 units)

<u>SESP 201-0</u>	Human Development: Childhood and Adolescence ^{1,2}
<u>TEACH_ED 302-0</u>	Social, Cultural, and Linguistic Contexts of Education
<u>TEACH_ED 310-0</u>	Foundations of Learning in a New Language
<u>TEACH_ED 322-0</u>	Linguistics Informed Approaches to Literacy
<u>TEACH_ED 327-0</u>	Educating Exceptional Children



Key Requirements

- Students will also complete a full-time student teaching experience during their final winter quarter.
- The Teaching, Learning, & Education Program in SESP manages all of the details and requirements of student teaching.
- We partner with schools across the area including Chicago Public Schools, Evanston Schools, and others.



Our Approach

- Learn to develop students' communicative proficiency through immersive experiences focused on negotiating meaning in authentic cultural contexts.
- Support students in real communication about topics that are important to them.
- Learn strategies for ensuring that input and language are comprehensible so that students can acquire language in ways that are compelling and engaging.
- Consider how language and culture are interwoven and language is a tool to better understand ourselves, others, and the world.
- World language educator licenses span from PreK through 12 grade; explore a variety of grade bands and teaching experiences.



Interested?



Stay in Touch!

- Meet with Gaby to plan out possibilities!
- Join us at future events (Open House in January, ConnectEd every fall)
- We are excited to support your journey as a world language educator!



Questions?

**¡Mil
Gracias!**

