Occasionally, a College of Education graduate student will need to take an undergraduate course to address an academic need or to complete a teaching certification requirement. Please read below for frequently asked questions:

**Q:** I need to take one or more undergraduate content-area courses in addition to my graduate-level required courses. How will this affect my financial aid?

**A:** If the undergraduate courses that you need to take have not been approved for graduate credit by the College of Education, you will register for the courses as an undergraduate non-degree student—not as a graduate student. You will need to work with your academic advisor to do this. Enrolling in these undergraduate courses can affect your federal graduate-level student aid.

- If you participate in the federal student financial aid programs and you have been awarded graduate-level federal financial aid, you will need to enroll at least half-time in graduate-level courses that apply to your graduate degree to qualify for your federal graduate-level financial aid. If you enroll only in undergraduate content-area courses that do not apply to your graduate degree, you will not qualify for your graduate-level federal financial aid; you must enroll at least half-time in degree-applicable courses to qualify for federal graduate-level financial aid.

- However, other types of non-federal financial aid for which you are eligible may be used to cover the cost of your undergraduate content-area courses. Check with the Office of Financial Aid at DePaul Central to determine how your non-federal financial aid will apply to your non-degree undergraduate courses.

**Q:** I participate in the federal student aid programs as a graduate student. If I take an undergraduate content-area course that does not apply to my graduate degree, and I also take a graduate-level course in the same term, will I qualify for my federal student aid in that term?

**A:** As long as you are enrolled at least half-time in graduate-level coursework (defined as courses that apply to your graduate degree), and meet all other federal eligibility requirements, you will qualify for federal graduate-level student aid. So if you take a four-hour graduate-level course and a four-hour undergraduate non-degree content-area course, you will qualify for graduate-level federal student loans based on your half-time graduate-level enrollment—the undergraduate course will not factor into your eligibility for federal graduate-level student aid. Please note that financial aid appeals based on cost of attendance cannot be granted to cover the tuition expense associated with the undergraduate course work.

If you have questions about enrollment levels for financial aid, please refer to the Disbursement Eligibility section of our website.

**Q. What programs are considered federal student aid?**

**A:** Federal Direct Student Loans, Federal TEACH Grant, and Federal Perkins Loan. For more information, please visit studentaid.ed.gov or the DePaul Office of Financial Aid website.