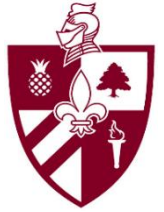




# Noyce Knights Scholars Program (NKSP) Bellarmine University



Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF)  
Fall 2022 – Spring 2027

**Bellarmino Students, STEM Graduates and STEM Professionals**



## Are You Interested in a Career Teaching Science or Mathematics in Middle or High School (6-12)?

The demand for certified STEM teachers nationally has been rising, and in Kentucky, there is a critical need for STEM teachers. Kentucky is producing significantly fewer certified STEM teachers than needed to fill the vacant middle and high school science and mathematics teaching positions. **Noyce Knights Scholars Program (NKSP)** at Bellarmine University (BU) is funded by the National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce program to prepare, support and certify at least 25 middle and high school science and mathematics teachers over five years. Upon certification, all NKSP Scholars will be placed at a JCPS (a high-need school district) middle or high school (based on the teaching certification) and **MUST** teach for at least two years for each year of the scholarship/stipend award within 6 years after graduation. NKSP Scholars can choose to teach at a high-need school district anywhere in the country for at least two years, for each year of the award within 6 years after graduation.

The starting salary of a JCPS teacher with a MAT degree is \$50,901 (\$44,853 with a Bachelor's degree) and the average teacher salary of a JCPS teacher is \$63,000, with top earners making more than \$90,000 per year. The NKSP partners are - Kentucky Science Center (KSC), Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), Jefferson Community and Technical College (JCTC), University of Kentucky (UK), Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS), and JCPS Academies of Louisville. NKSP provides scholarships and stipends to (i) Bellarmine undergraduate students majoring in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (BMB), Environmental Science, Mathematics or a STEM-related field who are interested in a career in STEM education as a middle or high school (secondary) science and mathematics teacher via the 5-year Early Entry MAT (Master of Arts in Teaching) Graduate Certification pathway, (ii) Bellarmine undergraduate students dual majoring in Mathematics and Secondary Education who are interested in career in STEM education as high school (secondary) Mathematics teacher via the 4-year Mathematics Undergraduate Certification pathway, and (iii) BU STEM graduates, STEM Professionals or career changers with a Bachelor's degree in any STEM discipline who are interested in career in STEM education as middle and/or high school (secondary) science and mathematics teacher via the 2-year Traditional MAT Graduate Certification pathway.



### Undergraduate Certification Pathway:

*4-Year Undergraduate Certification Program in Mathematics* – For the Undergraduate Certification Pathway, BU students can obtain dual degree in both BA Mathematics and in BS Secondary Education with a high school (secondary) teaching certification in Mathematics at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> year, prior to graduation. NKSP scholars in the 4-Year Undergraduate Certification Program must successfully complete a minimum of 200 hours of field experience by the end of the Spring semester of their Senior year (prior to graduation). **NKSP Scholarship is provided for junior and senior years in the amount of \$19,200 max. per year (covers BU's total cost of attendance after BU's financial aid package). Total max. amount for two years - \$38,400.**

### BU Catalog Link-

[Dual Degree Program in BA Mathematics and BS Secondary Education](#)

### Early Entry MAT Graduate Certification Pathway:

*5-Year Early Entry MAT Certification Program in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics (4-Years Undergraduate and 1-Year Post-Baccalaureate MAT Graduate)* – For the Early Entry MAT Certification Pathway, BU students can obtain a Bachelor's degree in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (BMB), Environmental Science, or Mathematics at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> year and the MAT graduate degree at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> (post-baccalaureate) Year with middle and/or high school (secondary) teaching certification in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, or Mathematics, prior to MAT graduation. BU students must follow the Early Entry MAT Program curriculum in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology, and BMB (see BU catalog links below). The Early Entry MAT degree requires the completion of 12 MAT courses (36 credit hours). 4 MAT courses (12 credit hours) are taken in the senior year of the Bachelor's degree that are counted towards the MAT degree. **Graduate tuition expenses in the Senior year for the MAT courses are paid (waived) by BU.** 8 MAT courses (24 credit hours) are taken in the 5<sup>th</sup> (post-baccalaureate year - 3 in Summer (9 credit hours), 3 in Fall (9 credit hours), and 2 in Spring (6 credit hours). Additionally, NKSP scholars must successfully complete a minimum of 200 hours of field experience (55 field hours in Fall of MAT senior year, 35 field hours in Summer of MAT year, 55 field hours in Fall of MAT year and 55 field hours in Spring of MAT year. Out of the 55 field hours, 42 field hours must be in classroom settings and 13 field hours must be out of the classroom. **NKSP Stipend is provided for post-baccalaureate MAT year in the amount of \$29,000 which covers full MAT Graduate Tuition and Fees of \$16,560 in the MAT year with \$10,000 for off-campus living expenses and \$2,440 for miscellaneous expenses.**

### BU Catalog Links-

[Early Entry MAT Degree Program in Physics](#)

[Early Entry MAT Degree Program in Chemistry](#)

[Early Entry MAT Degree Program in Biology](#)

[Early Entry MAT Degree Program in Mathematics](#)

### Traditional MAT Graduate Certification Pathway:

*2-Year Traditional MAT Certification Program in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics* – For the 2-Year Traditional MAT Certification Pathway, BU STEM graduates, STEM Professionals or career changers with a

Bachelor's degree in any STEM discipline can obtain middle and/or high school (secondary) teaching certification in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, or Mathematics, prior to MAT graduation. The Traditional MAT degree requires the completion of 12 MAT courses (36 credit hours) - 3 MAT courses (9 credit hours) in Fall of Year 1, 3 MAT courses (9 credit hours) in Spring of Year 1, and 3 MAT courses (9 credit hours) in Spring of Year 1, and 2 MAT courses (6 credit hours) in Summer of Year 1, 2 MAT courses (6 credit hours) in Fall of Year 2, and 2 MAT courses (6 credit hours) in Spring of Year 2. Additionally, NKSP scholars must successfully complete a minimum of 200 hours of field experience (55 field hours in Fall of MAT 1<sup>st</sup> year, and 35 field hours in Summer of MAT 1<sup>st</sup> year, 55 field hours in Fall of MAT 2<sup>nd</sup> year and 55 field hours in Spring of MAT 2<sup>nd</sup> year). Out of the 55 field hours, 42 field hours must be in classroom settings and 13 field hours must be out of the classroom. **NKSP Stipend is provided in the MAT 2<sup>nd</sup> year in the amount of \$29,000 which covers full MAT Graduate Tuition and Fees of \$24,840 for the two years with \$4,160 for miscellaneous expenses.** *NOTE: NKSP scholars can defer their first year's MAT tuition payment until the start of their second MAT year once they receive their NKSP stipend.* **Additionally, NKSP scholars can apply for BU Graduate Assistantship is a department/office at BU is willing to hire the NKSP scholar. NKSP scholars can receive \$10,000 per year (Fall and Spring) if awarded a BU Graduate Assistantship.**

### **BU Catalog Links-**

[MAT Degree Program – Middle School Education](#)

[MAT Degree Program – High School \(Secondary\) Education](#)

### **NKSP Incentives and Required Activities:**

- Attend the NKSP Orientation program.
- Opportunity to take part in a paid summer internship in STEM Education for one month at the Kentucky Science Center. Each NKSP intern will receive \$1250 for this internship – a stipend of \$800 (20 hours/week for four-weeks at \$10/hour) and \$450 as subsistence towards housing expenses for one month.
- Participate in a paid Professional Development workshop in summer focused on Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT) at the University of Kentucky for NKSP scholars who are in the post-baccalaureate MAT year (in summer prior to certification) for the Early Entry MAT pathway or in the summer after graduation (prior to certification) of the Mathematics Undergraduate Certification pathway or in the summer of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the Traditional MAT pathway. Each NKSP intern will receive a stipend towards their housing, meal and transportation expenses.
- Join the STEM Teacher Education Learning Community (STELC) to take part in NKSP activities. NKSP scholars must attend four seminars/workshops on CRT and two Induction seminars and take part in the annual STEM Maker Fair event at BU hosted by STELC. STELC will provide a support network among pre-service STEM teacher education students, in-service STEM teachers, and STEM/Education faculty and peer mentors. Upon graduation, NKSP scholars will become professional members of STELC as certified STEM teachers.
- NKSP scholars in the Early Entry MAT Graduate Certification Pathway will be required to complete a minimum of 200 hours of field experience that will provide classroom teaching experiences in diverse settings at JCPS schools.
- Each year, one NKSP scholar will be chosen to attend the national NSF Noyce Summit in Washington D.C. with a NKSP faculty. All travel expenses paid.
- Each year, two NKSP scholars will be chosen to attend the Regional Noyce Meeting with NKSP faculty. All travel expenses paid.
- NKSP scholars must participate in surveys and data collection (as needed) for NKSP's external evaluation. NKSP scholars must remain in contact with the NKSP Project's Co-Directors for six years after graduation in order to collect data on employment status and teacher evaluations.



### **NKSP Support Services:**

Faculty Mentoring: A pivotal aspect of NKSP scholars' retention and persistence is directly related to opportunities to connect with a designated faculty mentor within the student's STEM discipline. Each NKSP scholar will be paired with the project's STEM faculty coordinator who will serve as their mentor during their senior year. The Faculty mentor will oversee the NKSP scholars' curricular and non-curricular progress in their senior and MAT year. STEM faculty mentors will work with Student Support Services (SSC) staff to determine if additional

academic support is needed. In the MAT year, NKSP faculty mentors from the School of Education will provide mentorship with master teachers via observation and reflection during their student teacher practicum to ensure that they develop sound pedagogical skills needed to effectively teach the STEM content in high-need settings. NKSP scholars will be evaluated by the Project's Co-Directors/NKSP faculty mentors at the end of each semester.

Peer Tutoring and Coaching: Seniors from each of the STEM disciplines will provide help as needed with the STEM courses materials/contents and tutoring via individual or small-group tutoring sessions. Paid by SSC, NKSP scholars will also be encouraged in their senior year to serve as peer tutors for freshman and sophomores as part of their pre-service teaching experience. Graduating MAT students will be assigned to help in the teacher certification (Praxis) exams preparation sessions.

### How to Apply for the NKSP Scholarship/Stipend:

1. At the time of application be a US Citizen, or US National, or US Permanent Resident.
2. For Graduate Certification Pathways - Submit the MAT application form via the [Application Management Portal](#) no later than the Spring semester of Junior year for the Early Entry MAT Graduate Certification pathway or no later than the Spring semester of Senior year for the Traditional MAT Graduate Certification pathway. Click on the "Graduate or Second Degree" option and select "Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)". For questions about the MAT application form, please contact the Office of Graduate Admission at 1.502.272.7200 or Email: [gradadmissions@bellarmine.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@bellarmine.edu). 
3. Submit the [NKSP Application Form](#) along with the [NKSP Compliance Form](#). Choose either (i) Undergraduate Certification Pathway: (4-Year High School Undergraduate Certification Program in Mathematics), or Graduate Certification Pathway (Option 1): 5-Year Early Entry MAT Certification Program (4-Years Undergraduate and 1-Year Post-Baccalaureate Graduate), or Graduate Certification Pathway (Option 2): 2-Year Traditional MAT Certification Program. For question regarding the NKSP Application form, please contact NKSP Co-Director Dr. Kristin Cook (Professor of Science Education at BU); Phone: 502.272.8146; Email: [kcook@bellarmine.edu](mailto:kcook@bellarmine.edu). 
4. Meet the minimum GPA requirements.

For the Mathematics Undergraduate Certification Pathway – BU Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 and a GPA of 2.75 in the required Mathematics courses at the time of application. Upon acceptance, Noyce scholars must graduate with a Mathematics degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 and a GPA of 2.75 in Mathematics.

For the Early Entry MAT Graduate Certification Pathway – BU Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 and a GPA of 3.00 in the STEM major (that includes all STEM courses required for the major) at the time of application. Upon acceptance, Noyce scholars must graduate with a STEM degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 and a GPA of 3.00 in the STEM major (that includes all STEM courses required for the major). NKSP scholars must graduate with a MAT degree with a minimum GPA of 3.00.

For the Traditional MAT Graduate Certification Pathway – BU STEM graduates and STEM Professionals must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 or a GPA of 3.00 on the 30 hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework. Official transcripts must be sent directly to BU if Bachelor's degree in from another institution. Upon acceptance, NKSP scholars must graduate with a MAT degree with a minimum GPA of 3.00.

5. Submit your resume, a biographical and background statement (one page max.), and an essay about professional goals and rationale for pursuing a career as a STEM teacher (two-pages max.). You can upload these documents on the NKSP Application Form. NOTE: *Applicants for the Early Entry MAT and Traditional*

*MAT Graduate Certification pathways can submit the same essay required for the MAT application form.*

6. Applicants for Early Entry MAT or Mathematics Undergraduate Certification pathways must submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).
7. For the Traditional MAT Graduate Certification Pathway – To apply for the BU Graduate Assistantship, please contact the Office of Graduate Admission at 1.502.272.7200 or Email: [gradadmissions@bellarmine.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@bellarmine.edu).
8. Commit to teach at a JCPS (or another high-need school district) middle or high school (based on teaching certification) for at least two years for each year of scholarship/stipend received within 6 years after graduation/certification by signing the NKSP Compliance Form.
9. Have a successful interview with the selection committee.
10. Additional requirements: NKSP Scholars must (i) pass the Praxis Subject Area (Praxis II) Exam in the content area (minimum score for each content area is determined by the state) prior to Transition Point 1 in the MAT graduate program by end of the second semester (Spring semester of Year 1) in the Traditional MAT program or prior to the end of the second semester (Spring semester of Senior Year) in the Early Entry MAT program; (ii) complete an exit interview upon graduation; and (iii) pass a background check prior to 6-12 teaching employment in Kentucky.

### **Mandatory Compliance Requirement:**

NKSP applicants must sign and submit the NKSP compliance form and abide by the compliance requirements. NKSP scholar will need to repay the scholarship amount if they do not satisfy the teaching commitment (except for a deferment for a qualifying event). Scholarships/stipends will revert to a loan if a Noyce scholar: (1) withdraws from the program prior to completion, or (2) fails to maintain good standing level in the teacher certification program and graduate with the minimum GPA requirement, or (3) is dismissed from the teacher certification program or institution for disciplinary reasons, or (4) fails to complete all the Noyce Knights Scholars Program (NKSP) requirements, or (5) fails to graduate with a teaching certification, or (6) fails to complete the mandatory teaching obligation or do not intend to fulfill the mandatory teaching obligation at a JCPS (or another high-need school district) middle or high school (based on the teaching certification) for at least two years for each year of scholarship/stipend received within 6 years after graduation. If a circumstance occurs during the mandatory teaching obligation period, the scholarship/stipend amount must be repaid as a proportion of the total scholarship/stipend received, prorated to reflect partial teaching completion. For questions regarding the NKSP compliance requirements, contact NKSP Co-Director, Dr. Akhtar Mahmood (Professor of Physics at BU); Phone: 502.272.7599 or Email: [am Mahmood@bellarmine.edu](mailto:am Mahmood@bellarmine.edu).

### **For More Information About the Noyce Knights Scholars Program (NKSP) Contact:**

- Dr. Akhtar Mahmood (PI: Professor of Physics), NKSP Co-Director; Department of Chemistry & Physics; Phone: 502.272.7599; Email: [am Mahmood@bellarmine.edu](mailto:am Mahmood@bellarmine.edu).
- Dr. Kristin Cook (Co-PI: Professor of Science Education), NKSP Co-Director; School of Education; Phone: 502.272.8146; Email: [kcook@bellarmine.edu](mailto:kcook@bellarmine.edu).

**Noyce Knights Scholars Program (NKSP) Web Page:** Click [here](#).

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