



# Noyce Knights Scholars Program (NKSP) Bellarmine University

Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF)  
Fall 2022 – Spring 2027  
KCTCS Community College Students



## 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 KCTCS STEM students majoring in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics who are interested in a career in STEM education as a middle or high school science and mathematics teacher. KCTCS students can start their academic journey at a KCTCS community college and transfer credits to BU to earn their Bachelor's degree, as well as a teaching certification degree in the post-baccalaureate year via the Early Entry MAT (Master of Arts in Teaching) Graduate Certification pathway or a dual degree in both BA Mathematics and in BS Secondary Education via the Mathematics Undergraduate Certification pathway. BU offers generous transfer tuition support

that is comparable to your cost of attendance at a KCTCS community college. Current KCTCS students who are interested in obtaining a Bachelor's degree at BU in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics with a middle and/or high school (secondary) teaching certification in any of the four STEM disciplines must complete an Associate of Science (AS) degree at a KCTCS community college with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 for the Mathematics Undergraduate Certification pathway with a NKSP scholarship, or a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 for the Early Entry MAT Graduate Certification pathway in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics with a NKSP stipend.



### 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, KCTCS students who have completed an Associate of Science (AS) 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) can transfer to BU in their Junior year and obtain a Bachelor's degree in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, 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. KCTCS transfer students need to follow the Early Entry MAT Program curriculum in Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Mathematics (see BU catalog links below). The Early Entry MAT degree requires the completion of 12 MAT courses (36 credit hours). 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 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 Chemistry](#)

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

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

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

### Undergraduate Certification Pathway:

*4-Year Undergraduate Certification Program in Mathematics* – For the Undergraduate Certification Pathway, KCTCS students who have completed an Associate of Science (AS) degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 can transfer to BU in their Junior year and obtain a dual degree in both BA Mathematics and in BS Secondary Education with a high school teaching certification at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> year, prior to graduation.

KCTCS transfer students need to follow the dual-degree curriculum in Mathematics and Secondary Education (see BU catalog links below). NKSP scholars in the 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](#)

### **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.

### **KCTCS to Bellarmine Transfer for the Noyce Knights Scholars Program (NKSP):**

Per NKSP requirement, current KCTCS students enrolled in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics who are interested in obtaining a Bachelor's degree at BU in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics with a middle and/or high school (secondary) teaching certification in any of the four STEM disciplines must complete an Associate of Science (AS) degree before transferring to BU to apply Noyce Knights Scholars Program (NKSP). For the Mathematics Undergraduate Certification pathway, an Associate of Science (AS) degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 is required for the NKSP scholarship, and for the Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics Early Entry MAT Graduate Certification pathway, an Associate of Science (AS) degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 is required for the Noyce stipend. Based on the 2BU agreement between BU and KCTCS, BU offers a special discounted tuition rate of \$19,550 per year for the two years for KCTCS students, and access to all the amenities and resources at BU. KCTCS students who live on campus can receive a \$2,000 on-campus housing grant per year. Additionally, BU offers a generous financial aid package that further reduces any out of pocket expenses. Moreover, KCTCS students can take up to two free summer courses at BU.

### **KCTCS-Bellarmino Course Transfer and Advisement Plans:**

Bellarmino University has implemented course transfer and advisement plans in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics with the KCTCS community colleges for the Early Entry MAT program (see links below). All KCTCS community colleges share the same Associate of Science (AS) course curriculum in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics.

- [KCTCS Course Transfer and Advisement Plan in Physics](#)
- [KCTCS Course Transfer and Advisement Plan in Chemistry](#)
- [KCTCS Course Transfer and Advisement Plan in Biology](#)
- [KCTCS Course Transfer and Advisement Plan in Math](#)



### **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. Submit the BU application form via the [Application Management Portal](#). Select the "Transfer or Degree Completion Student" option. Transfer application to BU can be submitted anytime during the Sophomore year at any KCTCS community college.
3. Submit the [NKSP Application Form](#) along with the [NKSP Compliance Form](#) after the



completion of the Fall semester of the Sophomore year. Choose either (i) Undergraduate Certification Pathway: (4-Year High School Undergraduate Certification Program in Mathematics) or (ii) Graduate Certification Pathway (Option 1): 5-Year Early Entry MAT Certification Program (4-Years Undergraduate and 1-Year Post-Baccalaureate Graduate). 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. For the Early Entry MAT Graduate Certification Pathway – KCTCS 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, NKSP 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 Mathematics Undergraduate Certification Pathway – KCTCS 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, NKSP scholars must graduate with a Mathematics degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 and a GPA of 2.75 in Mathematics.

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 pathway can submit the same essay required for the MAT application form.*
6. Submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

7. For the Early Entry MAT Graduate Certification Pathway – Submit the MAT application form via BU's [Application Management Portal](#) after transferring to BU, no later than Spring semester of Junior year. 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 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 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 NKSP 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: [amahmood@bellarmine.edu](mailto:amahmood@bellarmine.edu).



**For more information about the Noyce Knights Scholars Program (NKSP):** KCTCS students can contact NKSP Community College Recruitment Coordinator, Professor Marlisa R. Austin at JCTC; Phone: 502.213.5073 or Email: [marlisa.austin@kctcs.edu](mailto:marlisa.austin@kctcs.edu).

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



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