

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Mission:

As a Sinsinawa Dominican-sponsored institution, Dominican University prepares students to pursue truth, to give compassionate service and to participate in the creation of a more just and humane world. The university motto, Caritas et Veritas, characterizes the essence of this mission.

The School of Education, rooted in the Catholic Dominican tradition of excellence, prepares educators to make a difference by their commitment to fostering the values of scholarship, leadership, and service within themselves and their students.

Teacher Preparation Programs:

Dominican University offers 10 baccalaureate majors leading to state teacher certification, seven graduate level certification programs, bilingual/ESL approval programs, and a concentration in gifted education. Three combined bachelor/master programs leading to certification are offered also.

Student Characteristics:

Undergraduates are primarily traditional college age, 89% attend full-time, 89% of all undergraduates are Illinois residents, and 38% are minority. Of the undergraduate teacher education candidates, 95% are Illinois residents and 95% are full-time. The mid range of ACT scores is 20-26. Eighty percent of the graduate candidates are part-time, 86% are Illinois residents, and 16% of those reporting are minority. A majority of graduate candidates are individuals changing careers.

Admissions Requirements:

Admission to Teacher Education Program: All candidates must pass the Illinois Test of Basic Skills. Undergraduates complete an introductory education course with a C or better, have an overall GPA of at least 2.75 and be recommended by their University advisor. Graduate candidates need at least a 3.0 GPA for full acceptance into the graduate teacher education programs and three letters of recommendation. All teacher education candidates undergo a background check prior to being assigned to field experience during their first class within the program.

Admission to Clinical Practice: Both undergraduate and graduate candidates must complete all program course requirements with a minimum 3.0 GPA (graduate), 2.75 GPA (undergraduate), have an academic teaching major, submit to a criminal background check, have completed at least 100 clock hours of early field experiences, and be recommended by their advisor, complete gateway portfolio requirements and disposition self-assessment and faculty assessments.

Accreditation:

Dominican University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. All certification programs are approved by the Illinois State Teacher Certification Board and the Illinois State Board of Education. The School Library Media Specialist program is also accredited by the American Library Association. The School Social Work program is also accredited by the Council on Social work accreditation.

Teacher Education Vision:

Consistent with the university vision, the unit encompassing the School of Education aspires to the following as it grows in both size and quality: To foster responsive programs that prepare candidates to work with diverse and ever-changing student populations supported by a mission-driven learning environment that fosters excellence, dedicated faculty who are current in their fields, allocation of resources including technology, and the expansion of opportunities for partnerships that mutually serve the community and our candidates.

Best Practices:

- Significant early field experiences engage candidates with children and youth who exhibit a variety of learning needs in diverse school settings.
- Faculty integrate technology as a source of knowledge, tool for teaching, and an avenue for collaboration
- Faculty expose candidates to a variety of authentic assessments by implementing these assessments into the evaluative dimensions of their courses.
- All programs support the development of knowledge and skills in research-based practices.
- Collaborative partnerships are developed with school districts across the metropolitan Chicago area.
- Professional portfolio process is implemented within each program.
- A research-based Conceptual Framework is the foundation for each program.

Notable Features and Accomplishments:

- Dominican certification programs are rooted in a 100-year tradition of excellence in the preparation of candidates to meet the challenges of changing educational realities with attention to heart and mind.
- The School of Education teacher education programs were accorded continuing accreditation and approval by the Illinois State Board of Education in June 2002.
- The School of Education provides diagnostic and support services to children and young people through the Educational Evaluation Center
- Golden Apple Scholars are current Dominican certification candidates.
- The Hephzibah Reading Academy and the Dominican University Reading Clinic provides candidates with specialized clinical experiences
- The Rose K. Goedert Early Childhood Education Center serves as an on-campus educational early childhood lab center for the Early Childhood teacher education program.
- The School of Education offers three on-line Master's degree programs for certified teachers. The programs enroll certified teachers nationwide.
- A second alternative certification program with Teach for America began in Fall 2007 in the area of early childhood education.
- The alternative certification with the Chicago Teachers Fellows expanded in Fall 2008.

Program Information for Dominican University 2007-2008	
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S.1 Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2007-2008	350
S.2 Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2007-2008	212
S.3 Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	35
➤ S.3A Full-time faculty in professional education	3
➤ S.3B Part-time faculty in professional education but full-time in the institution	0
➤ S.3C Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	32
S.4 Total faculty student teaching supervisors	35
S.5 Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	6:1
S.6A The average number of student teaching hours per week	38
S.6B The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	15
S.7 Average total number of hours required	532