

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Mission:

Since its founding in 1871, Elmhurst College has prepared students or lives of expanding opportunity, service, and achievement. "The College dedicates itself to the development of humane values, the skills of critical and creative inquiry, the capacity and desire to serve others, commitment to meaningful work, understanding of global independence, and responsible citizenship." (2007-2008 Catalog)

Teacher Preparation Programs:

Elmhurst College offers 22 baccalaureate programs – Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Special Education (LBSI), seven K-12 programs, and 12 programs leading to Secondary certification. Graduate programming features master's programs in Early Childhood Special Education and Teacher Leadership.

Student Characteristics:

Elmhurst has an enrollment of 3,184 students. 76% of the students are under age 24; 17% are students of color or international students; 81% attend EC full-time, 93% are Illinois residents and 36 countries are represented.

Admissions Requirements:

Admission to Teacher Education Program: For admission to a teacher education program and enrollment in any Education courses at the 200-level or higher, students must have a completed application, a well-written original personal statement, a 2.75 cumulative GPA or higher (all institutions), sophomore standing (32 semester hours of coursework) OR junior standing and department identified major GPA, evidence of a passing score on the State of Illinois Basic Skills Test for teachers, completed within the last 5 years, evidence of at least 6 semester hours of English composition with a "C" or higher, and two professional recommendations [forms are included in application packet]

Admission to Student Teaching: The process and standards for admission to student teaching are the same as previously described for admission and retention in a teacher education program. In addition, each prospective student teacher must obtain or demonstrate:

- Successful completion of ECE/EED/SEC/SPE 370 and Program Portfolio Checkpoint #2.
- Mentor teacher evaluations of field experiences.
- Grades of "C" or better in all required professional education courses and education-related general education courses, while still maintaining the overall major and certification GPAs required for admission to the candidate's program.
- Passing scores on the State of Illinois content area test in the appropriate discipline prior to beginning the clinical semester.
- Completion of all other degree and certification requirements prior to the start of clinical semester.

Accreditation:

The Teacher Education Unit is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the Illinois State Board of Education; programs are individually approved by national specialty organizations. Elmhurst College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Teacher Education Vision:

The Department of Education is committed to preparing teachers who are knowledgeable and caring creators and directors of learning experiences. Together, the breadth of liberal learning and the depth of professional education provide a basis for teacher education programs that blend professional knowledge, specialty area knowledge, and field experiences.

Best Practices:

- Standards-based field experiences are integrated in diverse settings via a Satellite Network of schools and teachers from the first education course.
- Technological competence is developed in education courses and through experience, focusing on meeting the needs of all students.
- Opportunities for service learning are integrated across all program courses of the teacher education curriculum.
- Extensive practicum-based courses and opportunities provide a variety of experiences in high needs and diverse settings.

Notable Features and Accomplishments:

- Elmhurst College is consistently ranked in the top tier of Midwestern regional liberal arts colleges in U.S. News and World Reports' annual survey of "America's Best Colleges".
- January-term courses, optional and tuition-free to students enrolled full-time in Fall and Spring, offer opportunities to travel, take electives, work toward middle school endorsement, or take required courses.
- The Early Childhood Special Education masters program provides a unique partnership between students and mentor families with special needs children.
- Students and graduates have been recipients of Golden Apple scholarships, foundation awards, Bill Gates scholarships, and Kappa Delta Pi awards and scholarships.

**Program Information for Elmhurst College
2007-2008**

S.1 Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2007-2008	759
S.2 Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2007-2008	171
S.3 Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
➤ S.3A Full-time faculty in professional education	8
➤ S.3B Part-time faculty in professional education but full-time in the institution	5
➤ S.3C Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	23
S.4 Total faculty student teaching supervisors	39
S.5 Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	4:1
S.6A The average number of student teaching hours per week	30
S.6B The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	10-16
S.7 Average total number of hours required	300-480