

**CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION**

***Mission:***

Governors State University is committed to offering an exceptional and accessible education that imbues students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in a global society. GSU is dedicated to creating an intellectually stimulating public square, serving as an economic catalyst for the region, and being a model of diversity and responsible citizenship.

***Teacher Preparation Programs:***

GSU offers teacher preparation programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. These include degree programs in secondary (Biology, Chemistry, English and Mathematics), elementary, early childhood, and special education, as well as a post-baccalaureate non-degree alternative route elementary certification program.

***Student Characteristics:***

5,692 candidates were enrolled university-wide in Fall 2007. Undergraduates numbered 2,516 (44.2%), of whom 1,770 (70.3%) were women, 1,104(43.9%) were minority, and 863 (35.1%) were full-time students. Of 3,176 (55.8%) graduate students, 2,215 (69.7%) were women, 1,238 (39%) were minority, and 730 (23%) were enrolled full-time. Undergraduates averaged 32.8 years of age, while graduate students' average age was 33.4 years. Over 95% of enrolled students were Illinois residents. The university awarded 1,872 degrees in 2007-08, 71% to women and 45.3% to minority students.

***Admissions Requirements:***

Admission to Teacher Education Program: GSU is an upper division and graduate institution. Undergraduates are to present 60 credits with a 2.00 or 2.50 cumulative grade point average, depending upon program. Graduate candidates must hold a bachelor's degree with a 2.75 or 3.00 undergraduate cumulative grade point average, depending upon program.

Admission to Student Teaching: The following requirements must be met in order to be admitted to student teaching:

- Professional education requirements completed, except student teaching, including at least 100 clock-hours of field experiences with a GPA 3.00 or higher;
- No more than nine general education hours yet to be completed; with a GSU general education GPA of 2.75 or higher;
- ICTS Basic Skills and content examinations passed;
- Must have met any/all Illinois State Board of Education requirements applicable to the subject matter area(s) in which the student will student teach; and
- Must have received a positive recommendation from program faculty.

***Accreditation:***

The Illinois State Board of Education has approved all of Governors State University's teacher preparation programs. The university professional education unit is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). All unit programs have earned recognition from their national specialty professional associations. Governors State University is fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

***Teacher Education Vision:***

Consistent with the University's mission, the professional education unit is committed to prepare individuals to successfully enter the profession of teaching. The unit seeks to offer the highest quality academic programs, balancing innovation and best practice, to meet the needs of adult life-long learners. The faculty, staff, and administration are committed to employing sound performance assessment processes to enhance unit programs, including robust collaboration with the region's educational community, integration of appropriate technologies, and fostering an understanding and appreciation of the significance of human diversity (ethnic, socio-economic, age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, learning style, etc.) in order to help all children learn.

***Best Practices:***

- All teacher preparation programs – and virtually all professional courses – include fieldwork components, designed in collaboration with public school partners that provide carefully sequenced opportunities for candidates to interact with diverse students and school personnel in a variety of instructional settings. Undergraduates spend at least two trimesters in public school classrooms studying and applying teaching methodologies in advance of their student teaching experience.
- Student Progress Committees in each program monitor the performance of the unit's candidates on a continuous basis, and especially at designated assessment gateways established by each program's faculty.
- The unit's programs are designed to prepare personnel who have an easy working familiarity with all pertinent Illinois professional and content standards and who are skilled in designing instruction that successfully responds to and aligns with those standards.

***Notable Features and Accomplishments:***

- Dr. Deborah Bordelon was appointed Dean of the College of Education during 2008.
- A major revision of the unit's Conceptual Framework was undertaken and largely completed during this academic year. It will be finalized and published during 2008-2009.
- The College of Education welcomes Mr. Rudy Puente as the new and second director of it Alternative Route to Elementary Teacher Certification program. Dr. Karen Peterson has retired from that role after founding and leading the program for the past decade.

<b>Program Information for Governors State University 2007-2008</b>	
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<b>S.1</b> Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2007-2008	<b>428</b>
<b>S.2</b> Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2007-2008	<b>127</b>
<b>S.3</b> Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	<b>27</b>
➤ <b>S.3A</b> Full-time faculty in professional education	<b>5</b>
➤ <b>S.3B</b> Part-time faculty in professional education but full-time in the institution	<b>0</b>
➤ <b>S.3C</b> Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	<b>22</b>
<b>S.4</b> Total faculty student teaching supervisors	<b>27</b>
<b>S.5</b> Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	<b>4.70:1</b>
<b>S.6A</b> The average number of student teaching hours per week	<b>40</b>
<b>S.6B</b> The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	<b>15</b>
<b>S.7</b> Average total number of hours required	<b>600</b>