

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Mission:

The department of education prepares undergraduate teacher candidates and practicing teachers to facilitate the learning of all students, enabling both teachers and their students to act as informed, involved, principled, and productive citizens and leaders over a lifetime.

Teacher Preparation Programs:

North Central College offers a specialized undergraduate program to prepare elementary and secondary education teachers. It is an experience-oriented teacher education program based on the liberal arts. The college offers eleven (11) baccalaureate programs leading to certification in Elementary Education, Art, English, Mathematics, Music Education, Physical Education, Science (designations in biology chemistry or physics), Social Science (designation in History), and Foreign Language (Spanish). Programs at the master's level include Educational Leadership and Administration leading to the Type 75 General Administrative certificate and Curriculum and Instruction.

Student Characteristics:

Of the 2529 students at North Central College, 2187 are full-time undergraduate students and 342 are graduate students. North Central College students come from 29 states and 20 foreign countries. North Central College's minority enrollment of 356 students constitutes 13% of the student population.

Admissions Requirements:

Admission to Teacher Education Program: A minimum 2.5 GPA overall, in the major, and in professional education courses; completion of EDN 100 with a minimum grade of "C" (2.0); completion of nine credit hours in the major field; a minimum of a "C" (2.0) grade in all professional education courses; self-evaluation and faculty evaluation of dispositions; passing scores on the Illinois Test of Basic Skills; declaration of major/minor; four year plan signed by student's advisor; and transcript evaluation, if applicable.

Admission to Student Teaching: A minimum of 2.5 GPA overall and in the major; a 2.7 GPA in professional education courses by the end of the term prior to student teaching; and a recommendation from the department of the student's major.

Accreditation:

The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools accredits North Central College. The Illinois State Board of Education approves all of the College's teacher education programs

Teacher Education Vision:

The goal of the Department of Education is to prepare preservice and inservice teachers to facilitate the learning of all students. Five cornerstones form the foundation of the development of a professional facilitator of learning: knowledge and understanding of subject matter content, pedagogy, student characteristics, the environmental context of learning and professionalism.

Best Practices:

- Through an innovative Liberal Arts curriculum at North Central College, all students participate in integrative and interdisciplinary studies that focus on global awareness and leadership, ethics, and values.
- Field experiences require students take on increasingly more teaching responsibility and are held to increasingly higher standards and are integrated throughout the four-year program. 40 and 50-hour field experiences are supervised.
- Classroom Management is a required course for both the elementary and secondary program and its course credit was increased to provide an emphasis on preparing candidates to teach in diverse settings.
- The department requires a standards-based portfolio for all students seeking certification. Students are required to submit artifacts that show competency in each of the 11 Illinois Professional Teaching Standards.
- The department and Teacher Education Committee is fully implementing a monitoring system to identify candidate support needs and difficulties to ensure success.

Notable Features and Accomplishments:

- The department offers a minor in reading, leading to endorsement.
- Placement increased opportunities for candidates to experience high need/diverse school settings expanding a partnership with District 131.
- The department began requiring all elementary and secondary education students to determine the impact they are having on K-12 student learning.
- The department made significant revisions to the Curriculum and Instruction Graduate program, using the National Board standards and the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards as a framework.
- The department developed and began implementing a professional portfolio for the Curriculum and Instruction program, organized using the National Board Certification Standards and the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards.
- The department revised its mission statement to more closely align with the College's mission statement and the department's conceptual framework for undergraduate and graduate programs.
- The college submitted and received a grant from the Walmart Foundation for first generation college students. The Teach First program will begin in 2008-09 and will focus on supporting first generation college students in the teacher education programs.
- Every course in the Educational Leadership and Administration program was aligned to the state standards through course syllabi and projects within the courses. The Educational Leadership and Administration program portfolio process was revised to require candidates to reflect on and assess their growth portfolio, reshaping it to reflect their knowledge and skills of best practice.

Program Information for North Central College 2007-2008

S.1 Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2007-2008	125
S.2 Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2007-2008	135
S.3 Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
➤ S.3A Full-time faculty in professional education	3
➤ 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	21
S.4 Total faculty student teaching supervisors	29
S.5 Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	5
S.6A The average number of student teaching hours per week	40
S.6B The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	10
S.7 Average total number of hours required	400