

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Mission:

The mission of North Park University, as an intentionally Christian university of the Evangelical Covenant Church, is to prepare students for lives of significance and service through liberal arts, professional, and theological education.

Teacher Preparation Programs:

North Park University offers sixteen programs leading to state teacher certification in early childhood, elementary, secondary (Biology, English, General Sciences, History, Mathematics, Physical Education, Physics, and Social Studies), and K-12 education (Art, French, Music, Physical Education, and Spanish) at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Student Characteristics:

In the School of Education traditional undergraduate students comprise 46% of enrolled students. Certification only students comprise 28% of enrolled students. MATC students comprise 27% of enrolled students. Minority students comprise 17% of enrolled students. Students come to North Park University from several states and foreign countries.

Admissions Requirements:

Admission to Teacher Education Program: Overall GPA of 2.50 or above for undergraduate, acceptance into an appropriate major, positive recommendations from advisors and Dean of Students Development, approval of the Teacher Education Screening committee, successful scores on the Illinois State Board of Education Basic Skills Test, and completion of health screening.

Admission to Mini-Teaching: Successful completion of Professional Terms A and B in the education program, continued overall GPA of 2.50 or above, education GPA of 2.75 or above, major or area of concentration GPA of 2.75 or above.

Admission to Student Teaching: formal application made one year in advance, continued overall GPA of 2.50 or above, education GPA of 2.75 or above, major or area of concentration GPA of 2.75 or above, positive recommendations from major or area of concentration advisor, education advisor, Dean of Student Development and supervisors of pre-student clinical experiences; approval of the Teacher Education Screening Committee, and successful completion of Professional Terms, A, B, and C in the education sequence; and passage of the content area test.

Accreditation:

North Park University is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. All of the university's teacher preparation programs are approved by the Illinois State Board of Education. The School of Music is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.

Teacher Education Vision:

The School of Education at North Park University prepares teacher candidates who are competent, respectful, reflective professionals committed to serving diverse communities.

Best Practices:

- Professional Terms A, B, C, and D are each accompanied by a field experience with multiple supervisions by NPU professionals.
- Initial field experiences seek to engage the candidate as an active contributor in the classroom rather than a passive observer.
- Student teaching is preceded by a mini-teaching experience in which candidates teach the same class consecutively for seven-week period.
- Field experiences are required in urban, suburban, public, and private schools.

Notable Features and Accomplishments:

- Full-time School of Education faculty includes a professor who was previously recognized as "Teachers of the Year" at the district or college level.
- Adjunct faculty have K-12 teaching experience.
- Some of the teaching faculty are current or former teachers in P-12 education.
- Three full-time faculty members have been public school principals and administrators. One full-time faculty member was a district superintendent.
- The majority of full-time School of Education teaching faculty hold a doctorate.
- 100% of School of Education adjunct faculty hold one or more master's degrees.
- The faculty of the School of Education is diverse representing India, Greece, Puerto Rico, Native American, African American and white European descent.
- Graduate programs are offered on campus, in Arlington Heights, and in McHenry County.

Program Information for North Park University 2007-2008	
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S.1 Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2007-2008	315
S.2 Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2007-2008	121
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	2
➤ S.3C Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	5
S.4 Total faculty student teaching supervisors	15
S.5 Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	8:1
S.6A The average number of student teaching hours per week	35
S.6B The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	12
S.7 Average total number of hours required	420