

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

University Park, Illinois

2003-2004 Title II Report

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

University Mission:

Governors State University's mission is

I. to offer a demonstrably excellent education that meets the demands of our region and state for engaged, knowledgeable citizens and highly skilled professionals, and that is accessible to all including those traditionally underserved by higher education;

II. to cultivate and enlarge a diverse and intellectually stimulating community of learners guided by a culture that embodies:

- openness of communication;
- diversity of backgrounds, experiences and perspectives;
- mutual respect and cooperation;
- critical inquiry, constant questioning and continuing assessment; and
- on-going research and scholarship; and

III. to strengthen and enhance the educational, cultural, social and economic development of the region through partnerships with governmental, business, educational, civic and other organizations.

Teacher Preparation Programs:

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

Student Characteristics:

5,627 candidates were enrolled university-wide in Fall 2003. Undergraduates totaled 2,668 (47.4%), of whom 1,869 (70.1%) were women, 1,044 (39.1%) were minorities, and 851 (31.9%) were full-time students. Of 2,959 (52.6%) graduate students, 2,113 (71.4%) were women, 1,086 (36.7%) were minority, and 525 (17.7%) were enrolled full-time. Undergraduates averaged 32.7 years of age, while graduate students' average age was 35.6 years. Over 95% of enrolled students were Illinois residents.

Admission Requirements:

Governors State University is an upper division and graduate level institution. Undergraduates are required to present 60 semester credit hours of coursework with a 2.00 or 2.50 cumulative grade point average, depending upon the program applied for. Graduate candidates must hold a bachelor's degree with a 2.75 or 3.00 undergraduate cumulative grade point average, depending upon the program applied for.

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 preparing 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 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:

- The unit's Alternative Route to Teacher Certification has significantly expanded its size and its impact on elementary classrooms in the Chicago metro area by forging a new partnership with the Chicago Public Schools. The program has also been awarded a significant Transition to Teaching grant by the U.S. Department of Education, providing critical resources to enable expansion of the program to additional candidates and school districts.
- Dr. Steven C. Russell has recently been appointed the new dean of Governors State's College of Education and head of the university's professional education unit.
- Significant new physical plant development on campus continues with additional and improved classroom facilities, including planned renovation of science laboratories and an aggressive phased project to develop all classroom facilities as Technology Enhanced Classrooms, which offer state-of-the-art instructional technology for faculty and candidate use.

**Program Information for Governors State University
2003-2004**

S.1 Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2003-2004	579
S.2 Number of students in supervised student teaching in academic year 2003-2004	127
S.3 Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
➤ S.3A Full-time faculty in professional education	6
➤ 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	16
S.4 Total faculty student teaching supervisors	22
S.5 Student teacher/faculty ratio	5.8:1
S.6A The average number of student teaching hours per week	40
S.6B The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	15
S.7 Average total number of hours required	600