

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Mission:

Blackburn College, founded in 1837 and affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA), provides a coeducational student body with a rigorous, distinctive, and affordable liberal arts education that prepares graduates to be responsible, productive citizens. The Blackburn community values critical and independent thinking, leadership development, respect for all individuals, and lifelong learning. The college fosters a sense of service, community, and moral responsibility through its unique student-managed work program, its collegial concept of shared governance and its faculty/staff mentor relationship with students.

Teacher Preparation Programs:

The emphasis of the Department of Education is on providing candidates with the professional education coursework and field experiences needed for Illinois certification in Elementary Education (K-9), Secondary Education (9-12), or Special Certification (K-12). The Department of Education offers seven different certification designations: Visual Arts Education (K-12), Physical Education (K-12), Secondary Social Science Education: History (9-12), Secondary English (9-12), Secondary Mathematics (K-12), and Elementary Education (K-9).

Student Characteristics:

The majority of students at Blackburn College are of traditional college age with gender distribution of 56% female, 44% male. Of all students, 98% attend full-time, and 13% are of ethnically diverse backgrounds: White (82.8%), Black (8.2%), Hispanic (1.2%), Asian/Pacific (.5%), Native American (.5%), Alien-Resident (2.8%), and Unknown (4.0%). Nearly one-third (177) of the 594 students attending Blackburn College are enrolled in the Teacher Education Program.

Admissions Requirements:

Admission to Teacher Education Program:

- Cumulative GPA 2.5 or higher (no rounding)
- 2. Evidence of passing IL Basic Skills Test
- Grade of C or better in CO 111 and CO 112 and all ED courses
- Evidence of completion of 35 hours of ED 100 field experience
- Evidence of IL State Police Criminal Background Check
- Submit Dispositions Evaluations (Self, ED 100 Faculty, Work Program)
- Advisor signature on Teacher Education Program Application
- Submit Portfolio Artifacts (Grading rubrics must be submitted with artifacts and they must be graded at the acceptable or target level)

Admission to Student Teaching:

- Cumulative GPA 2.5 or higher (no rounding)
- Grade of C or better in all required ED courses and content designation courses
- Evidence of passing IL Content Teaching Exam
- Evidence of completion of all field experience hours required for specific certification designation courses (Field experience hour requirement may vary for candidates accepted into Teacher Education Program before Fall 2005.)
- Evaluation of Dispositions: Self, Faculty (from the following courses: ED 240: Educational Psychology and all ED Methods Courses) and Work Program Manager (if applicable)
- Evaluation of current student teacher
- Completed Application to Student Teaching
- Advisor Signature on Student Teaching Application

Admission to Student Teaching: (continued)

- Unit Portfolio Artifacts 3-11 (Grading rubrics must be submitted and all artifacts must be assessed at the acceptable or target level.)
Artifact 3: Diversity Field Experience Reflection (assignment from ED 200)
Artifact 4: Observation Reflective Paper (assignment from ED 220)
Artifact 5: IEP (assignment from ED 220)
Artifact 6: Presentation of Teaching Strategies (assignment from ED 240)
Artifact 7: Classroom Management Plan (assignment from ED 320)
Artifact 8: Individually Constructed Assessments (assignment from ED 370)
Artifact 9: Philosophy of Education (assignment from ED 400)
Artifact 10: PowerPoint Electronic Project (assignment from ED 410)
Artifact 11: Unit Plan (Elementary Ed Candidates: Assignment from 205/353/354 [candidate's choice] Secondary Ed Candidates: Assignment from ED 315)

Accreditation:

Blackburn College is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. All of the college's teacher preparation programs are approved by the State Board of Education.

Teacher Education Vision:

In its Teacher Education Program Blackburn College seeks to affirm its fundamental belief that a liberal arts education, in connection with its unique student-managed work program, provides candidates the best preparation for a rapidly changing school situation. We believe teaching is a dynamic field of human endeavor, and we strive to prepare teachers who are able to critically and consistently assess, improve, and enhance their teaching techniques and content knowledge.

Best Practices:

The emphasis of the Department of Education is on providing candidates with the professional education coursework and field experiences needed for state certification. Candidates will have the opportunity to acquire essential knowledge, skills and dispositions for initial teaching certification. The department welcomes a diversity of cultures, needs and ideas to promote the rigorous learning environment and scholarship required of all candidates. Each of the programs is designed to promote candidates' personal commitments to excellence in teaching. By developing these commitments, graduates of Blackburn College's education programs will be endowed with the necessary skills and dispositions to enhance K-12 student learning.

Notable Features and Accomplishments:

Blackburn College is one of seven work colleges in the country and the only one that is student-managed, providing students with extensive and meaningful hands-on work experience prior to graduation. The work program offers candidates the opportunity to work in K-12 educational settings as their campus work position. In their first education course, Education students participate in 35 hours of hands-on tutoring with K-12 students. The teacher education programs are significantly involved in both formal and informal partnerships with local K-12 schools.

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| Program Information for Blackburn College 2004-2005 | |
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| S.1 Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2004-2005 | 39 |
| S.2 Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2004-2005 | 39 |
| S.3 Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers: | |
| ➤ S.3A Full-time faculty in professional education | 4 |
| ➤ S.3B Part-time faculty in professional education but full-time in the institution | 8 |
| ➤ S.3C Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution | 0 |
| S.4 Total faculty student teaching supervisors | 12 |
| S.5 Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4) | 3.2:1 |
| 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 |