

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Mission:

Since its founding in 1871, Elmhurst College has prepared students for lives of expanding opportunity, service, and achievement. "The College dedicates itself to the development of humane values, the skills of critical and creative inquiry, the capacity and desire to serve others, commitment to meaningful work, understanding of global interdependence, and responsible citizenship" (2005-2006 Catalog).

Teacher Preparation Programs:

Elmhurst College offers 22 baccalaureate programs – Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Special Ed LBSI, seven K-12 programs, and 12 programs leading to Secondary Certification. Graduate programming features a cohort-based master's program in Early Childhood Special Education.

Student Characteristics:

Elmhurst has an enrollment of 2920 student. 71% of the students are under age 24; 19% are students of color or international students; 93% attend EC full-time; 93% are Illinois residents, and 17 countries are represented.

Admissions Requirements:

Permission to take Education Courses: Completion of 28 semester hours with at least a 2.75 GPA, registration for the Illinois Basic Skills test, C or better in 6 semester hours English composition, a field experience plan on file, enrollment in EDU 110 or MUS 320.
Admission to the Specific Teacher Ed Program: Passing scores on the Illinois Basic Skills Test, completion of at least 48 semester hours with at least a 2.75 GPA and a major GPA of 2.75-3.0 (program-dependent), C or better in all professional education courses (2.75 for secondary majors), 20 hours field experiences, and a personal history/philosophy statement.
Admission to Student Teaching: Completion of all course requirements, cumulative GPA of 2.75 or better, major GPA of 2.75-3.00 or better, min 100 diverse hours of field experiences, approval by faculty and the teacher-education committee, passing scores on Illinois Content Area test.

Accreditation:

The Teacher Education Unit is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation for Teacher Education and the Illinois State Board of Education; programs are individually approved by national specialty organizations. Elmhurst College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Teacher Education Vision:

The Department of Education is committed to preparing teachers who are knowledgeable and caring creators and directors of learning experiences. Together, the breadth of liberal learning and the depth of professional education provide a basis for teacher education programs that blend professional knowledge, specialty area knowledge, and field experiences.

Best Practices:

- Standards-based field experiences are integrated in diverse settings via a Satellite Network of schools and teachers from the first education course.
- Technological competence is developed in education courses and through experience, focusing on using technology to meet the needs of all students.
- Service learning is part of the teacher education curriculum for all elementary and early childhood majors.
- Elementary and Early Childhood education majors complete content areas of concentration.
- Extensive practicum-based courses and opportunities provide a variety of experiences in high needs and diverse settings.
- A K-5 PDS partnership provides expanding professional development opportunities for pre-service and in-service teachers.

Notable Features and Accomplishments:

- Elmhurst College is the only NCATE-accredited school in Illinois to be consistently ranked in the top tier of Midwestern regional liberal arts colleges in U.S. News and World Reports' annual survey of "America's Best Colleges".
- January-term courses, optional and tuition-free to students enrolled full-time in Fall and Spring, offer opportunities to travel, take electives, work toward middle school endorsement or take required courses.
- The Early Childhood Special Education masters program provides a unique partnership between students and mentor families with special needs children.
- Students and graduates have been recipients of Golden Apple scholarships, foundation awards, Bill Gates scholarships, and Kappa Delta Gamma awards and scholarships.

**Program Information for Elmhurst College
2004-2005**

S.1 Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2004-2005	871
S.2 Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2004-2005	151
S.3 Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
➤ S.3A Full-time faculty in professional education	7
➤ S.3B Part-time faculty in professional education but full-time in the institution	3
➤ S.3C Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	14
S.4 Total faculty student teaching supervisors	24
S.5 Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	6:1
S.6A The average number of student teaching hours per week	40
S.6B The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	10-16
S.7 Average total number of hours required	480