

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Mission:

Founded in 1857 to prepare teachers, Illinois State University is the state's first public university. Illinois State is unique among public universities in that it provides statewide leadership in identifying the needs of Illinois schools and, through coordination with other colleges and universities, in developing and delivering programs tailored to meet them." (Illinois Board of Higher Education 1994 Focus Statement)

Teacher Preparation Programs:

- 34 B.A./BS. Programs leading to state teacher certification.
- 12 graduate-level certification programs.
- Alternative Route to secondary teacher certification for degree holders.
- Ed.D. and/or PhD. in education in six programs.

Student Characteristics:

Graduated 1056 teachers with bachelor's degrees.
Granted masters degrees to 208 teachers or administrators; granted 14 Certificates of Advanced Studies and 34 doctorates.

Admissions Requirements:

Admission to Professional Studies: Pass ISBE Basic Skills Test.

Admission to Student Teaching: Pass ISBE Content Area Test.

Exit from Student Teaching: Complete electronic portfolio requirements.

Program Completion: Registrar's audit of all requirements.

Candidates must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA in all teacher education programs; some programs require a higher GPA for admission to/retention in teacher education. Admission and retention requirements for teacher education programs are substantially higher than those for graduation from the University, i.e., graduation from a teacher education program requires higher standards than from the University in general. In addition, a comprehensive performance-based assessment system is now fully implemented.

Accreditation:

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA-CIHE) since 1913 and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) since 1954 have accredited ISU. All programs are fully approved by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and nationally recognized by specialized professional associations. The most recent NCATE/ISBE joint review took place in November 2003 with a five day site visit.

Teacher Education Vision:

Illinois State University's goal is to prepare teachers who have a strong sense of themselves and their mission as teachers and who, through caring and knowing, help their students realize the democratic ideal.

Best Practices:

- Secondary education teachers earn a major in the discipline.
- Elementary teachers complete an 18-hour specialty in an academic area.
- Middle level teachers complete an NMSA approved program, with two or more areas of specialization in an academic discipline.
- University/school partnerships: year-long Professional Development School (PDS) experiences in Wheeling, Elgin, Pekin, Chicago, Peoria, Springfield, and Bloomington-Normal.
- All teacher candidates complete early experiences at the University Laboratory K-12 School, one of only 85 laboratory schools in the nation.

Notable Features and Accomplishments:

- Home of state professional organizations, including Illinois Principals Association, Illinois Association of School Administrators, Illinois Association of Teachers of English, Illinois Women Administrators; state home of Illinois Special Olympics.
- Faculty consists of scholars and creative artists of repute in their disciplines and pedagogical specialists in disciplines that offer teacher certification programs.
- University rewards the scholarship of pedagogy by faculty.
- One in seven teachers in Illinois public schools graduated from Illinois State, the largest producer of teachers in the state, and consistently among the 10 largest producers in the nation (2005 AACTE data)
- Largest preparer of elementary teacher and special education teachers in the nation. (2005 AACTE Directory)
- The lead university in Illinois on a 5-year federal \$12,000,000 Teacher Quality grant.
- Received a total of \$2,250,000 in federal grants to prepare bilingual teachers for the state.
- Member of the prestigious Holmes Partnership, University Council for Education Administration, and National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER).
- Implemented/expanded the Chicago Pipeline to prepare more teachers for the city.
- Home of Special Education Assistive Technology Center providing assistive technology skills to all teacher education majors and advanced training for special educators and the Autism Spectrum Institute providing statewide professional development to educators and support to families.
- Publisher of the Illinois School Law Quarterly, Planning and Changing, and "The Grapevine", a national report on state appropriations for higher education.

Program Information for Illinois State University 2004-2005	
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S.1 Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2004-2005	4790
S.2 Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2004-2005	1071
S.3 Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
➤ S.3A Full-time faculty in professional education	35
➤ S.3B Part-time faculty in professional education but full-time in the institution	14
➤ S.3C Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	89
S.4 Total faculty student teaching supervisors	138
S.5 Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	7.8:1
S.6A The average number of student teaching hours per week	36
S.6B The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	15
S.7 Average total number of hours required	540