

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Mission:

For over one hundred and twenty years the National College of Education (NCE) has had as its mission excellence in teaching, scholarship, service, and professional development. Recognizing the importance of life-long learning in a diverse, rapidly changing global society, the college is committed to developing and empowering all learners.

Teacher Preparation Programs:

The National College of Education of NLU offers degrees in several teacher preparation programs including the bachelor of arts degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education, and graduate degrees (masters or education specialist) in Early Childhood, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Special Education, and Reading Specialist. In addition, NCE offers doctoral degrees in Educational Psychology, Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Social Inquiry, and Reading and Language.

Student Characteristics:

The majority of students in NCE teacher preparation programs are enrolled at the graduate level. Two thirds of these students attend the university part-time. Approximately, 13.9 percent of those enrolled in professional education programs are minority students.

Admissions Requirements:

Admission to degree program: Students are screened for admission using a number of sources of information including a written statement, three references, and transcripts from previous institutions. Undergraduates must have a 2.5 GPA to be admitted to the College of Education. Graduate school applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree and show evidence of the ability to pursue graduate work. In addition, all students who are residents of Illinois and seek admission to any certification program are required to pass the Basic Skills Test administered by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Admission to Student Teaching: Students must have completed previous coursework with passing grades, and must have an appropriate passing score on the applicable content exam. Students must also pass a criminal background check. (see attached sheet)

Accreditation:

National College of Education of National-Louis University is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Educators (NCATE). Additionally, selected programs are recognized by various State Departments of Education and other state agencies where academic programs are offered.

Teacher Education Vision:

- National College of Education (NCE) is a professional community collaborating with students, teachers, administrators, and others advocating for all learners. Building on the progressive tradition of John Dewey and our founder Elizabeth Harrison, the National College of Education continues its historical commitment to student-centered education. Students actively construct meaning individually, cooperatively, and collectively by integrating knowledge and experience within a community of learners.
- The NCE professional community recognizes that the learner and the process of schooling are situated in social, historical, political, and cultural contexts. We value diversity and cultural differences among children, families, and communities, and continue our long and distinguished tradition of promoting social justice and developing democratic communities.
- Reflection and inquiry provide an informed and integrated basis for advocating for all learners. As such, NCE students develop the disposition, knowledge and skills to:
 - Understand the contextual nature of learning
 - Help students construct their own knowledge
 - Integrate theory and practice
 - Reflect on and critique their own knowledge, practice, school, and society
 - Engage in inquiry
 - Collaborate with students, teachers, administrators, parents, policy makers, and the community at large

Best Practices:

Small class sizes, typically 12 to 17 students, allow for a high degree of contact between faculty and students. Following from our emphasis on the integration of theory and practice, students engage in a variety of practical experiences throughout their programs. In addition, we offer alternative routes to teacher certification.

Notable Features and Accomplishments:

- Full accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Educators (NCATE) at all locations.
- Second largest college of education in the country with 165 full time faculty members with locations in 4 states in the US.
- Best practice facilities, including the Baker Demonstration School Best Practices High School, and Effie Ellis Head Start Center.
- One U.S. Dept. of Education grants for the preparation of future teachers; \$6.3 million grant under the Teacher Quality Enhancement Program (TQE) and a \$24.5 million grant with Chicago Public Schools Striving Readers.

Program Information for National-Louis University 2004-2005	
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S.1 Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2004-2005	3261
S.2 Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2004-2005	1008
S.3 Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
➤ S.3A Full-time faculty in professional education	22
➤ S.3B Part-time faculty in professional education but full-time in the institution	
➤ S.3C Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	148
S.4 Total faculty student teaching supervisors	170
S.5 Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	5.9
S.6A The average number of student teaching hours per week	40
S.6B The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	12
S.7 Average total number of hours required	480