

**CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION**

***Mission:***

The mission of North Park University, as an intentionally Christian university of the Evangelical Covenant Church, is to prepare students for lives of significance and service through liberal arts, professional, and theological education.

***Teacher Preparation Programs:***

North Park University offers sixteen programs leading to state teacher certification in early childhood, elementary, secondary (Biology, English, French, General Sciences, History, Mathematics, Physical Education, Physics, Social Studies, and Spanish), and K-12 education (Art, Music, and Physical Education) at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

***Student Characteristics:***

In the School of Education traditional undergraduate students comprise 40% of enrolled students. Certification only students comprise 22% of enrolled students. MATC students comprise 39% of enrolled students. Minority students comprise 19% of enrolled students. Students come to North Park University from 20 states and one foreign country.

***Admissions Requirements:***

Admission to Teacher Education Program: Overall GPA of 2.50 or above for undergraduate, acceptance into an appropriate major, positive recommendations from advisors and Dean of Student Development, approval of the Teacher Education Screening Committee, successful scores on the Illinois state Board of Education Basic Skills Test, and completion of health screening.

Admission to Mini-Teaching: Successful completion of Professional Terms A and B in the education program, continued overall GPA of 2.50 or above, education GPA of 2.75 or above, major or area of concentration GPA of 2.75 or above.

Admission to Student Teaching: Formal application made one year in advance, continued overall GPA of 2.50 or above, education GPA of 2.75 or above, major or area of concentration GPA of 2.75 or above, positive recommendations from major or area of concentration advisor, education advisor, Dean of Student Development and supervisors of pre-student clinical experiences; approval of the Teacher Education Screening Committee, and successful completion of Professional Terms, A, B, and C in the education sequence and passed the content area test.

***Accreditation:***

North Park University is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. All of the university's teacher preparation programs are approved by the Illinois State Board of Education.

***Teacher Education Vision:***

The School of Education at North Park University seeks to prepare teacher candidates who are competent, respectful, reflective professionals committed to serving diverse communities.

***Best Practices:***

- Professional Terms A, B, C, and D are each accompanied by a field experience with multiple supervision by NPU professionals.
- Initial field experiences seek to engage the candidate as an active contributor in the classroom rather than a passive observer.
- Student teaching is preceded by a mini-teaching experience in which candidates teach the same class consecutively for a seven-week period.
- Field experiences are required in an urban, suburban, and private school.

***Notable Features and Accomplishments:***

- Full-time School of Education faculty includes a professor who was previously recognized as "Teachers of the Year" at the district or college level.
- Adjunct faculty includes a past President of the Chicago Area Writing Program.
- Most of the teaching faculty are current or former teachers in P-12 education.
- Three full-time faculty members have been public school principals and administrators.
- 100% of full-time School of Education teaching faculty hold a doctorate.
- 100% of School of Education adjunct faculty hold one or more masters degrees.
- North Park is consistently ranked as one of "America's Best" Midwestern regional liberal arts colleges by *U.S. News & World Report*.
- Faculty of the School of Education is diverse, representing India, Greece, Puerto Rico, Native Americans as well as white European descent.

<b>Program Information for North Park University 2004-2005</b>
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<b>S.1</b> Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2004-2005	<b>132</b>
<b>S.2</b> Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2004-2005	<b>79</b>
<b>S.3</b> Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
➤ <b>S.3A</b> Full-time faculty in professional education	<b>8</b>
➤ <b>S.3B</b> Part-time faculty in professional education but full-time in the institution	<b>2</b>
➤ <b>S.3C</b> Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	<b>5</b>
<b>S.4</b> Total faculty student teaching supervisors	<b>15</b>
<b>S.5</b> Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	<b>5:3</b>
<b>S.6A</b> The average number of student teaching hours per week	<b>35</b>
<b>S.6B</b> The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	<b>12</b>
<b>S.7</b> Average total number of hours required	<b>420</b>