

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Mission:

Founded in 1934, Principia College is the only college for Christian Scientists in the world. Emerging from The Principia Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools founded between 1898 and 1915 in St. Louis, Missouri, Principia College was established with the purpose to serve the cause of Christian Science in all of its academic programs. In teacher education, this purpose is served by developing teacher graduates who communicate moral character to build learning communities.

Teacher Preparation Programs:

Principia offers seven baccalaureate programs leading to Illinois teacher certification.

Student Characteristics:

Student enrollment at Principia College is maintained at just over 500 students. Most undergraduates are of traditional college age, and almost all attend full time. Very few students at Principia College are Illinois residents. About one in five students identify themselves with an American minority or international culture.

Admissions Requirements:

Admission to Teacher Education Program: Candidates must complete an oral communication requirement at an intermediate level; complete a written communication requirement at a beginning level; achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.55; demonstrate beginning knowledge, skills, and dispositions across nine Teacher Candidate Performance Expectation areas; and receive passing scores on the quantitative and verbal sections of the Illinois Basic Skills Test.

Admission to Student Teaching: Candidates must complete oral and written communications requirements at an intermediate level; achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.2 for education courses, 2.8 for all college courses; demonstrate intermediate knowledge, skills, and dispositions across nine Teacher Candidate Performance Expectation areas; pass the Illinois Assessment of Professional Teaching Test; and pass the Illinois Content Area Test relevant to their certification fields.

Accreditation: Principia College is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The Illinois State Board of Education certifies the teacher education unit and its certification programs.

Teacher Education Vision:

Principia College's mission for teacher education is to prepare teachers who communicate moral character to build learning communities in P-12 schools throughout the United States. Graduates are prepared to teach all students, especially those who are disadvantaged by current U.S. cultural norms.

All teacher graduates have completed certification programs that are fully aligned with all Illinois standards for teacher certification.

Best Practices:

All candidates for initial Illinois teaching certificates have engaged in the clinical practice of teaching for 300 clock hours in two different professional development school settings prior to student teaching. Field experiences in the real world of teaching are integrated throughout teacher preparation program courses that total 150 clock hours of field experience prior to student teaching.

All candidates are required to complete a second major area of study in a field appropriate to their teacher certification programs.

Oral, written, and quantitative skills are taught and assessed throughout a candidate's four years at Principia College.

Three full-time education faculty are available for about 30 teacher candidates and education majors each academic quarter.

Notable Features and Accomplishments:

For the past 10 years, 95% of graduates who want teaching positions received them soon after graduating from Principia College. This statistic doubles the national average for successful induction into teaching.

For the past 10 years, 80% of graduates who begin teaching after college remain in the profession for longer than seven years. This statistic doubles the national average for graduate teacher retention in the teaching profession.

All teacher candidates admitted to certification programs have an aggregate pass rate of 100% for all three Illinois teacher certification tests.

Program Information for Principia College 2004-2005
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S.1 Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2004-2005	16
S.2 Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2004-2005	7
S.3 Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
➤ S.3A Full-time faculty in professional education	1
➤ S.3B Part-time faculty in professional education but full-time in the institution	0
➤ S.3C Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	0
S.4 Total faculty student teaching supervisors	1
S.5 Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	9:1
S.6A The average number of student teaching hours per week	45
S.6B The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	12
S.7 Average total number of hours required	540