

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION***Mission:***

Founded in 1847, Rockford College seeks to educate men and women to lead responsible and productive lives by means of a curriculum grounded in liberal arts learning and complemented and extended by professional and practical experiences. The Rockford College vision is to be Jane Addams' college in the 21st century; providing a practical education and encouraging civic engagement within an agile and accountable institution.

Teacher Preparation Programs:

Rockford College offers Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in Elementary Education and a minor in Secondary Education for majors in Biology, Chemistry, English, French, German, History, Mathematics, Physical Education, Spanish, Theatre Arts, and Visual Arts. In addition, the College is now authorized to offer LBS 1 certification. Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) certification tracks include Elementary and Secondary Education. Alternative Certification is available through a partnership with National Teacher Education Center.

Student Characteristics:

90% of undergraduate students and 30% of graduate students are full time. They are of both traditional and non-traditional age. Approximately 19% are minorities.

Admissions Requirements:

Admission to Teacher Education Program: Candidates must declare a major or minor after completion of the first 45 semester hours. Passing the Illinois State Basic Skills Certification Examination, successful completion of the first Field Experience, Freshman English, an introductory level course in each academic division of the college, and overall GPA of 2.5 are required. Graduate candidates must apply for entry into the Graduate Program, pass the Basic Skills Certification Examination, complete the first Field Experience, and maintain an overall GPA of 3.0. Alternative Certification candidates must have a bachelor's degree, five years of relevant experience, and pass the Illinois State Basic Skills Certification Examination prior to entry into the program.

Admission to Student Teaching: All candidates must successfully complete an application process the semester preceding student teaching. Passing Freshman Math courses with a grade of C or above, 120 clock hours of approved pre-student teaching clinical experiences, undergraduate overall GPA of 2.5, major GPA of 3.0, graduate overall GPA of 3.0, passing the Illinois State Subject Matter Knowledge Test, and departmental approval are required. Graduate candidates must also be fully admitted into the Graduate Program. Alternative Certification candidates begin teaching in classrooms after passing the State Subject Matter Knowledge Test and completing an intensive term in learning theory and practice.

Accreditation:

Rockford College is a charter member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Its accreditation was most recently reviewed in 2001. All teacher preparation programs are approved by the State Teacher Certification Board/Illinois State Board of Education.

Teacher Education Vision:

- Teacher education graduates of Rockford College will have the tools and diverse experiences in the classroom necessary to empower the minds of each of their students. They will display a passion for working with children. They will know the content they teach and how to present it so diverse students will be able to understand and apply it to the world in which they live. Program completers will be able to integrate learning and behavioral theory and appropriate technology into all aspects of instruction. They will be able to address social issues in their classrooms through differentiating instruction, treating their students in an equitable manner, and instilling respect for diversity. They will demonstrate dedication to the profession by a willingness to reflect about instruction and a desire to be lifelong learners.
- All programs are aligned with the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards and the Illinois Content Standards.

Best Practices:

- Liberal Arts education with practical classroom experience.
- Small classes and a highly qualified, experienced, and dedicated faculty provide students with extraordinary learning experiences.
- Writing skills development begins with entry courses.
- Closely supervised student teaching by trained supervisors.
- Weekly reflection of classroom experiences in student teaching forms a base for becoming a reflective teacher.

Notable Features and Accomplishments:

- Jane Addams received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1881 when Rockford Female Seminary (now Rockford College) first began granting degrees.
- Participant in Goals 2000 and bilingual grants.
- Annual awards received by students include Phi Beta Kappa, the Seedhoff Award, and Phi Delta Kappa.
- Every year several graduates are candidates for the Rockford area Golden Apple awards and, very often, more than one of the final recipients are Rockford College graduates.

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

S.1 Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2004-2005	285
S.2 Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2004-2005	110
S.3 Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
➤ S.3A Full-time faculty in professional education	2
➤ S.3B Part-time faculty in professional education but full-time in the institution	2
➤ S.3C Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	10
S.4 Total faculty student teaching supervisors	14
S.5 Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	8:1
S.6A The average number of student teaching hours per week	35
S.6B The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	15
S.7 Average total number of hours required	525