

**CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION**

***Mission:***

The University of Illinois at Springfield has as its primary mission providing excellence in teaching. UIS strives to produce an educational environment where students can acquire:

- 1) a solid foundation for lifelong learning,
- 2) a keen appreciation of intellectual and aesthetic achievements,
- 3) an enhanced capacity for critical thinking and oral as well as written communication,
- 4) a practical preparation for pursuing fulfilling careers,
- 5) a sound basis for informed and concerned citizenship, and
- 6) a productive commitment to improving their world.

UIS emphasizes public affairs instruction, research, and service carried out through community partnerships that contribute to social progress, governmental effectiveness, educational excellence, and economic development.

***Teacher Preparation Programs:***

The University of Illinois at Springfield offers, at present, certification in Elementary Education and Secondary English, Math, Science, and Social Science. Students either enter with, or earn, a degree in the liberal arts at the same time they are working on certification.

***Student Characteristics:***

The average undergraduate age is 29, and average graduate age is 33. Fifty-six percent of UIS students attend part-time and 43.6% full-time. Fifty-seven percent of the student body is undergraduate, 42.5% are master's students, and .5% are doctoral students. Of the total student body, 57.6% are female, 13% are minorities, and 6.2% are international.

***Admissions Requirements:***

***Admission to Teacher Education:*** Candidates must formally apply to the program with a 2.5 GPA and passing scores on the Illinois Basic Skills exam. In addition, candidates must satisfy a set of prerequisite requirements before being admitted.

***Admission to Student Teaching:*** Students must have completed at least 120 clock hours of approved pre-student-teaching clinical experiences, have passed the content area certification exam, have a 2.5 GPA overall, a 2.75 GPA in their major, and a GPA of 3.0 in their professional education courses. Department approval is required.

***Accreditation:***

The University of Illinois at Springfield is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The Illinois State Board of Education approves all of the University of Illinois at Springfield's teacher preparation programs.

***Teacher Education Vision:***

Teacher education at the University of Illinois at Springfield prepares reflective practitioners who are proficient in academic content and professional skills. Candidates understand the nature of development and learning, are professionally responsive to issues of diversity and civic responsibility, and are active decision makers and critical thinkers. Candidates in teacher education are prepared to function in the future technological school/educational setting.

***Best Practices:***

- Standards-based curricula with continuous assessment of student performance.
- Instructional technologies integrated across all teacher preparation programs.
- Experienced faculty who are teacher-scholars and who model effective teaching.
- Students seeking initial certification complete a major in an arts or science discipline.
- Attention to diversity is a key component of curriculum in teacher education.
- Students entering the program are required to engage in service learning activities consistent with the University's public affairs focus.

***Notable Features and Accomplishments:***

- In the program, small classes are taught by diverse, full-time faculty with doctorates or other terminal degrees. Faculty in the program are active participants in National, Regional, and Local professional organizations.
- All full-time faculty hold tenure or are on the tenure-track. All faculty have significant experience in public and/or private school settings.
- The program has consistent, fair, and high standards for admission, retention, and graduation
- UIS offers an online, blended program leading to certification in Mathematics.
- Project Mid-state Student Support for Teaching is in its sixteenth year of providing support to teacher education candidates through collaboration with area schools and community colleges.
- UIS is completing the sixth year of a very successful, multimillion GearUp Grant in partnership with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield Urban League, and School District 186.

<b>Program Information for University of Illinois at Springfield 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>330</b>
<b>S.2</b> Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2004-2005	<b>49</b>
<b>S.3</b> Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
➤ <b>S.3A</b> Full-time faculty in professional education	<b>2</b>
➤ <b>S.3B</b> Part-time faculty in professional education but full-time in the institution	
➤ <b>S.3C</b> Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	<b>10</b>
<b>S.4</b> Total faculty student teaching supervisors	<b>12</b>
<b>S.5</b> Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	<b>4/1</b>
<b>S.6A</b> The average number of student teaching hours per week	<b>40</b>
<b>S.6B</b> The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	<b>13</b>
<b>S.7</b> Average total number of hours required	<b>520</b>