

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Mission:

The mission of WIU's Teacher Education Program is to prepare versatile teachers who appreciate the importance of our diverse population; who adapt to emerging social, economic and demographic patterns; and who are skilled in the use of technological tools to promote teaching and learning in our nation's schools.

Teacher Preparation Programs:

WIU offers 17 initial certification programs and eight advanced certification programs. Teacher education programs in elementary/early childhood education, special education, bilingual education, and physical education are offered in the College of Education and Human Services. Candidates in secondary and selected K-12 areas complete majors offered by departments in WIU's other three colleges. In fall 2005, 1,800 WIU students were education majors. WIU's largest programs are Elementary Education, Special Education, Physical Education, Social Science/History, and English/Language Arts.

Student Characteristics:

WIU enrolls 13,404 students at two campuses (Macomb: 11,277 students and the Quad Cities: 1,217 students) and 910 extension students. In fall 2004, 22% of WIU students were freshmen, while 10.4% were transfers. The average ACT of regularly admitted freshmen was 21.7. Minority students make up 11.6% of WIU total enrollment.

Admissions Requirements:

Admission to Teacher Education Program: Candidates may apply for the Teacher Education Program (TEP) after completing 45 semester hours. TEP admission requires that candidates pass the Illinois Basic Skills Test; submit a professional portfolio; maintain a 2.5 cumulative and major GPA (2.75 cumulative and major GPA for Elementary/Early Childhood Education, Special Education and History); and receive a grade of "C" or better in English 180 and 280, Communications 241, and either Math 101, 102, 106, 128, 129, 131, 133, 137, or Statistics 171. Candidates must also pass a criminal background check and receive the recommendation of their major department.

Admission to Student Teaching: Candidates may student teach if they maintained the required major and cumulative GPA required for admission into TEP, receive a grade of "C" or better for professional education courses, pass the state content test, and complete the portfolio requirements. Candidates must also pass a criminal background check and receive recommendation of their major department.

Accreditation:

WIU is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Its teacher education unit (the University Teacher Education Committee) has been accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education since 1954 and most recently in 2003. Illinois State Board of Education approves WIU's teacher education school administration and school personnel programs.

Teacher Education Vision:

WIU's teacher education faculty members believe that a professional teacher is ethical, flexible, and evidences continuous personal development. Candidates' knowledge of content, knowledge of teaching, knowledge of learners and knowledge of professional skills, and dispositions should be structured into practical applications (field and clinical experiences). Through reflective practice, candidates learn how their knowledge, experiences, and disposition relate to student learning.

Best Practices:

- WIU teacher education programs address institutional, state and national content and teaching standards. Candidates evidence those standards with a required professional portfolio.
- WIU offers the Reading Specialist Program that prepares current educators as effective reading teachers.
- All four of WIU's colleges work within a collaborative structure to improve the preparation of future teachers.
- WIU's Master of Arts in Teaching degree prepares mid-career college graduates to become high school teachers in selected programs and K-12 areas of physical education, Spanish, and French.
- A certification option offers future Special Education teachers an additional Elementary Education certificate with only one extra semester of coursework.
- WIU incorporates cutting-edge learning and teaching technologies in the preparation of its future teachers. The Technology Resource Center enables teacher education majors to check out computer and multimedia equipment for use in their courses and fieldwork.
- WIU's early childhood education program is designed to meet the early childhood special education approval requirements. All candidates completing this program receive approval.
- WIU, in cooperation with partner community colleges, provides financial support through a HECA grant for minority students preparing to become teachers.
- WIU is also working with regional community colleges to facilitate Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) degrees in the high need areas of Special Education, Early Childhood Education, Science, and Math.
- Our U. S. Department of Education-funded Project SABE (Successful Access to Bilingual Education) provides tuition support for prospective Bilingual teachers.

Notable Features and Accomplishments:

- Western Illinois University is the only teacher preparation institution in Illinois selected to be a member of the Renaissance Group, a national partnership association of 35 colleges and universities that prepares one in every ten new teachers.
- Western Illinois University is the only Illinois institution to offer an Alternative Certification Program for Superintendents.
- WIU has implemented an innovative clinical experience program that provides mentor teachers with targeted training and support that translates into a more rigorous, practice-based student teaching experience for our candidates and rigorous supervision by classroom teachers, district liaisons, and university supervision specialists.
- The American Association of Colleges has recognized WIU with its prestigious Innovation in the Integration of Technology in Teacher Preparation award.

Program Information for Western Illinois University 2004-2005
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S.1 Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2004-2005	255
S.2 Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2004-2005	295
S.3 Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
➤ S.3A Full-time faculty in professional education	4
➤ 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	1
S.4 Total faculty student teaching supervisors	5
S.5 Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	59:1
S.6A The average number of student teaching hours per week	40
S.6B The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	13.8
S.7 Average total number of hours required	552