

**CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION**

***Mission:***

MacMurray College, founded in 1846, has a long history of commitment to transforming lives through recognized excellence in the teaching of critical thinking, exemplary skills in communication, and of the pivotal ideas and ethical insights that have shaped human civilizations. The mission of the MacMurray College of Education Department is to transform teacher candidates' lives through a foundation of learning built on a strong infrastructure of theory, history, and current professional practices in the field of education, enhanced by the teaching of critical thinking, communication skills, and the pivotal values that have shaped human civilizations past and present. This transformation extends beyond the college classroom to include dynamic experiences of learning and teaching through which students, as reflective professionals, develop and demonstrate the most effective research-based educational practices available. MacMurray College creates practitioners who are effective communicators, critical thinkers, exemplary models of reflective practice, and professional leaders who create leaders.

***Teacher Preparation Programs:***

MacMurray College offers the following ten certification programs: Elementary Education (K-9) (optional middle school endorsement); Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Special Education-Learning Behavior Specialist I; Physical Education (K-12); Music Education (K-12); Secondary Education (6-12) (optional middle school endorsement) in Biology, English, History, Mathematics, and Spanish.

***Student Characteristics:***

MacMurray College is a college of liberal arts and sciences. MacMurray College has an enrollment of 699 men and women of which 167 are education majors. Seventeen percent of the student body is minority status and ninety three percent of the student body consists of full-time students. The average ACT score of the fall freshman class of 2005 was 20. MacMurray College has a faculty size of 79, including 35 part-time members. The 11.9:1 student-faculty ratio provides students with the opportunity to pursue their academic endeavors on a personal level.

***Admissions Requirements:***

**Admission to Teacher Education Program:** Candidates must have completed: Sophomore level with a grade point average of 2.5 or better; demonstrate written and oral communication skills; receive passing scores on Illinois Basic Skills Test; demonstrate introductory knowledge skills and dispositions across Illinois Professional Teaching Standards; receive recommendation of their education advisor to the field in which they wish to teach.

**Admission to Student Teaching:** Completion of all required professional preparation coursework; earn a C or better in all education courses; maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or better; complete a minimum of 100 hours of pre-student teaching field experience with a B or better; demonstrate progressing knowledge of skills and dispositions across Illinois Professional Teaching Standards.

***Accreditation:***

MacMurray College is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the unit for teacher education is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education.

***Teacher Education Vision:***

The MacMurray College Education Program strives to be locally and regionally prominent as a resource and model for the education profession, and to be recognized nationally as a leader in preserving and adapting the best of the liberal arts tradition in the preparation of professional educators to meet the need of an increasingly diverse 21<sup>st</sup> century society. MacMurray College produces educators who are prepared in the areas of assessment and action research, learning relationships, and are knowledgeable in content, technology, pedagogy, theory, and methodology.

***Best Practices:***

- Integration of Technology beginning freshman year.
- Field Experience: field placements are made in urban, suburban and rural schools and experienced faculty provide supervision.
- Faculty members communicate best practices instructional strategies/modes, pedagogies, and approaches to learning.
- Field experiences are well planned and sequenced and are of high quality.
- The unit recruits, admits and retains candidate who demonstrate potential for professional success.
- Secondary Education students may decide from five teaching majors.
- Classroom experiences in the real world of teaching are integrated throughout teacher preparation programs, which may begin freshman year.

***Notable Features and Accomplishments:***

- Nationally recognized Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher Education Program (only 1 of 2 in state), which is oldest and largest program in Illinois.
- Unique general education component that includes in a core curriculum, rhetoric, breadth components, and "Issues of Community and Conflict" spread over the entire four years of a candidate's program.
- Minority tutoring for area elementary students in conjunction with regular education courses.
- Mentoring of area high school students in conjunction with regular education courses
- Organization: CEC (Council for Exceptional Children) advances the education of exceptional children and youth; IDEA (Interpreters and Deaf Educators Association) involves Deaf and Hard of Hearing teacher candidates in the deaf community and provides several opportunities for students to participate and gain knowledge of the deaf community.
- Graduates responding to survey indicate that since 1996 91% were employed in Education.

<b>Program Information for MacMurray College</b> <b>2005-2006</b>
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<b>S.1</b> Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2005-2006	<b>29</b>
<b>S.2</b> Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2005-2006	<b>21</b>
<b>S.3</b> Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
➤ <b>S.3A</b> Full-time faculty in professional education	<b>3</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>3</b>
<b>S.4</b> Total faculty student teaching supervisors	<b>6</b>
<b>S.5</b> Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	<b>3.5:1</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>15</b>
<b>S.7</b> Average total number of hours required	<b>600</b>