

**CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION**

***Mission:***

Founded in 1847, Rockford College's mission is to educate men and women to lead responsible productive lives by means of a curriculum grounded in liberal arts learning and complemented and extended by professional and practical experiences. Through the total academic and co-curricular experience, Rockford College strives to prepare students for fulfilling lives, careers, and participation in a modern and changing global society.

***Teacher Preparation Programs:***

Rockford College offers liberal arts –based undergraduate and graduate programs to prepare elementary and secondary education teachers. The college offers thirteen (13) baccalaureate programs leading to certification in Elementary Education, English, Foreign Language (designation in French, German, and Spanish), Mathematics, Physical Education, Science (designation in Biology and Chemistry), Social Science (designation in History), Theatre Arts, Visual Arts, and Learning Behavior Specialist I. Programs at the master's level include certification tracks in Elementary, Secondary, and Special Education. Alternative certification is available through a partnership with National Teacher Education Center in Elementary Education, Foreign Language (designation in French, German, and Spanish), Mathematics, and Science (designation in Biology and Chemistry).

***Student Characteristics:***

Of the 1376 students at Rockford College, 731 are full-time undergraduate students, 141 are part-time undergraduate students, 98 are full-time graduate students, and 406 are part-time graduate students. Women comprise approximately 67% of the student body. While approximately 92% of Rockford College students are from Illinois, 8% are from out-of-state or from other countries. Minority students comprise approximately 11% of the student body.

***Admissions Requirements:***

**Admission to Teacher Education Program:** Candidates must declare a major after completing 45 semester hours; pass the Illinois Test of Basic Skills; successfully complete EDUC 200 or 202, RHET 101 & 102, and an introductory course in each division; and maintain an overall GPA of 2.5. Graduate students must apply for entry to the Graduate Program; pass the Illinois Test of Basic Skills; successfully complete EDUC 200 or 202; and maintain an overall GPA of 3.0. Alternate Certification candidates must have a bachelor's degree; five years of relevant experience; and pass the Illinois Test of Basic Skills.

**Admission to Student Teaching:** All undergraduate and graduate candidates must successfully complete an application process the semester prior to student teaching; complete MATH 116 & 117 with a 2.0 or better; complete 120 clock hours of approved pre-student teaching clinical experience; pass the Illinois Content Area Test; and receive education department approval. Undergraduates must maintain an overall GPA of 2.5 and a major GPA of 3.0. Graduate students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0. Graduate students must also be fully admitted to the Graduate Program. Alternative Certification candidates begin teaching in classrooms after passing the Illinois Content Area Test and after successful completion of an intensive term in learning theory and practice.

***Accreditation:***

Rockford College is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The Illinois State Board of Education approves all of the College's teacher education programs.

***Teacher Education Vision:***

Rockford College's goal is to prepare teachers to empower their students' minds to enhance present and future quality of life; to use and apply knowledge to real-life situations; to successfully maneuver the path to self-actualization; and to perceive and correct social injustice. Rockford College prepares candidates to be committed, responsible, scholarly, professional, respectful, collaborative, ethical, and reflective.

***Best Practices:***

- Rockford College teacher preparation programs provide academically rigorous, standards-based curricula based upon a strong liberal arts foundation with continuous assessment of student performance.
- Experienced, dedicated faculty-scholars model effective teaching in small classes that provide personal attention to the developmental needs of individual students.
- Rockford College candidates connect theory to practice through their application of coursework knowledge, of critical self-assessment, and of analytical reflection upon diverse clinical experiences in actual teaching environments.

***Notable Features and Accomplishments:***

- Jane Addams received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1881 when Rockford Female Seminary (now Rockford College) granted its first baccalaureate degrees.
- Recipient of a National Professional Development Grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition, 2002-2007.
- Annual achievement awards received by Rockford College teaching candidates include Phi Beta Kappa, the Seedhoff Award, and Phi Delta Kappa.
- Rockford College is actively engaged in several community- based learning partnerships throughout the Rock River Valley region.
- Two 2005-2006 Golden Apple Award recipients are graduates of Rockford College.

**Program Information for Rockford College  
2005-2006**

<b>S.1</b> Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2005-2006	<b>309</b>
<b>S.2</b> Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2005-2006	<b>94</b>
<b>S.3</b> Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	<b>11</b>
➤ <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>0</b>
➤ <b>S.3C</b> Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	<b>9</b>
<b>S.4</b> Total faculty student teaching supervisors	<b>11</b>
<b>S.5</b> Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	<b>9:1</b>
<b>S.6A</b> The average number of student teaching hours per week	<b>35</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>525</b>