

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Mission:

The University of Illinois at Chicago is an urban, land-grant university with the three-fold mission of teaching, research, and service. It ranks in the top 100 research universities in the U.S. Its nearly 25,000 students reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the Chicago metropolitan area. The teacher preparation programs at UIC seek to prepare individuals to become outstanding elementary and secondary teachers. Based on the belief that the need for outstanding teachers is greatest in our cities, UIC places a special emphasis on preparing teachers for urban schools.

Teacher Preparation Programs:

UIC offers baccalaureate programs leading to state certification in elementary education and 9 fields in secondary education. Students seeking a secondary teaching certificate major in an arts and science discipline, while all others earn a degree in education. At the graduate level, students can earn certification in early childhood, special education, elementary education, and several fields in secondary education.

Student Characteristics:

The 25,000 students who study at UIC come from Chicago and its suburbs and from 48 states and 82 countries. According to *US News and World Report*, UIC is one of the most diverse and affordable universities in the country. Minority enrollments comprise 50 percent of the total enrollment. Although primarily a commuter campus, UIC has housing facilities for approximately 2500 students and is currently expanding student housing. Admission to UIC is competitive. The median ACT composite score for entering freshmen is 23.

Admissions Requirements:

Undergraduate Candidates for admission to teacher education programs must have completed 45-60 hours with at least a 2.5/4.0 overall GPA and a minimum grade of "C" in all general education courses. In the secondary education programs, students must also meet minimum GPA requirements in their teaching majors of 2.5 or higher. Education students must pass the Illinois Basic Skills test for program admission and demonstrate written and oral language proficiencies through submission of a writing sample and participation in an interview with education faculty. Prior to student teaching, candidates must also pass the Content Test in their field. Once admitted, progress toward the education degree is continuously monitored to ensure successful completion of both course work and field experiences in classrooms.

Accreditation:

UIC is accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of College and Schools. The programs for the preparation of elementary and secondary teachers have been approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the North Central Association of College and Schools, and the Illinois State Board of Education.

Teacher Education Vision:

The graduates of UIC teacher preparation programs possess knowledge of the content areas they will teach, as well as knowledge of ways to teach that actively engage students in learning that content. They possess an understanding of the needs and interests of children and adolescents and of the nature and purposes of schools in a democratic society. UIC graduates have multiple experiences in urban schools with highly diverse student populations. They believe that all students, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, or social class, can learn at high levels. They view themselves as professionals who must be lifelong learners if they are to keep abreast of changing knowledge in the field. In short, UIC graduates know what to teach and how to teach it, and they believe that all students have the right to a high quality education.

Best Practices:

- All of the educator preparation programs meet the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards and the Illinois Content Area Standards for Educators.
- All elementary and secondary education students participate in extensive supervised field experiences in Chicago area schools prior to their placement in student teaching.
- All secondary education students major in the arts and science content area in which they are seeking certification.
- Elementary education students spend two semesters in the same urban classroom. In their post-student teaching semester, they spend 3 full days each week for 9 weeks and during student teaching, they spend all day for 15 weeks.

Notable Features and Accomplishments:

- Partnership READ, directed by Taffy Raphael, has been honored with the AACTE's 2006 Best Practice Award for Effective Partnerships. The award recognizes university-school collaborations that demonstrate measurable contributions to student achievement.
- Gerald Graff has been elected Vice President of the Modern Language Assoc.
- Timothy Shanahan has been elected to the Reading Hall of Fame, joining Taffy Raphael and Bill Teale.
- Yolanda Majors has been elected to the standing committee for research in the National Council of Teachers of English.
- **Cyndie Shanahan** and **Tim Shanahan** have been awarded a two-year grant of \$100,000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, for their project "Adolescent Literacy in the Disciplines: Reshaping Teacher Education at an Urban Land Grant Research University"

**Program Information for University of Illinois at Chicago
2005-2006**

S.1 Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2005-2006	1294
S.2 Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2005-2006	274
S.3 Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
➤ S.3A Full-time faculty in professional education	64
➤ S.3B Part-time faculty in professional education but full-time in the institution	20
➤ S.3C Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	37
S.4 Total faculty student teaching supervisors	28
S.5 Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	9.7
S.6A The average number of student teaching hours per week	30
S.6B The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	15
S.7 Average total number of hours required	450