

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Mission:

Dominican University was founded in 1901 by the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters. The School of Education, in accordance with the mission of Dominican University, focuses on teaching and learning in an environment that promotes the understanding and development of the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes necessary for the growth of the professional educator. The curriculum fosters personal insights, professional knowledge, scholarship and sensitivity to diversity.

Teacher Preparation Programs:

Dominican University offers 10 baccalaureate majors leading to state teacher certification, seven graduate level certification programs, bilingual/ESL approval programs, and a concentration in gifted education. Three combined bachelor/master programs leading to certification are offered also.

Student Characteristics:

Undergraduates are primarily traditional college age, 89% attend full-time, 89% of all undergraduates are Illinois residents, and 32% are minority. Of the undergraduate teacher education candidates, 95% are Illinois residents and 95% are full-time. The mid range of ACT scores is 20-26. Eighty percent of the graduate candidates are part-time, 86% are Illinois residents, and 16% of those reporting are minority. A majority of graduate candidates are individuals changing careers.

Admissions Requirements:

Admission to Teacher Education Program: All candidates must pass the Illinois Test of Basic Skills, demonstrate written and oral communication skills, complete an introductory education course and be recommended by their University advisor. Undergraduate candidates need at least a 2.5 GPA, and graduate candidates need at least a 3.0 GPA. They undergo a background check prior to being assigned to field experience during their first class within the program.

Admission to Clinical Practice: Both undergraduate and graduate candidates must complete all program course requirements with a minimum 3.0 GPA (graduate), 2.75 GPA (undergraduate), have an academic teaching major, submit to a criminal background check, have completed at least 100 clock hours of early field experiences, and be recommended by their advisor.

Accreditation:

Dominican University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. All certification programs are approved by the Illinois State Teacher Certification Board and the Illinois State Board of Education. The School Library Media Specialist program is also accredited by the American Library Association. The School Social Work program is accredited by the Council on Social work accreditation.

Teacher Education Vision:

Dominican University candidates evidence scholarship, leadership, and service through collaboration, ethical decision-making, and social initiatives to create a just and humane society for all children. Candidates will demonstrate proficiency in working with diverse populations, will develop leadership skills, will be competent in the uses of technology, as well as a spectrum of strategies and practices aligned with the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards, the Illinois Content Standards for teachers and the national content standards for specific programs.

Best Practices:

- Significant early field experiences engage candidates with children and youth who exhibit a variety of learning needs in diverse school settings.
- Faculty integrate technology and internet resources across the curriculum.
- Faculty expose candidates to a variety of authentic assessments by implementing these assessments into the evaluative dimensions of their courses.
- Elementary methods courses are developed and taught in collaboration with local school district faculty.
- Collaborative partnerships are developed with school districts across the metropolitan Chicago area.
- Professional portfolio process is implemented within each program.
- A research-based Conceptual Framework is the foundation for each program.

Notable Features and Accomplishments:

- Dominican certification programs are rooted in a 100-year tradition of excellence in the preparation of candidates to meet the challenges of changing educational realities with attention to heart and mind.
- The School of Education teacher education programs were accorded continuing accreditation and approval by the Illinois State Board of Education in June 2002.
- The School of Education provides diagnostic and support services to children and young people through the Educational Evaluation Center.
- Reading Specialist certification candidates give presentations annually at the Spring Illinois Reading Council Conference.
- Golden Apple Scholars are current Dominican certification candidates.
- Elementary candidates teach in the Hephzibah Reading Academy and the Dominican University Reading Clinic in the summer prior to their clinical practice.
- The Rose K. Goedert Early Childhood Education Center serves as an on-campus educational early childhood lab center for the Early Childhood teacher education program.
- The School of Education offers three on-line Master's degree programs for certified teachers. The programs enroll certified teachers nationwide.
- A second alternative certification program with Teach for America began in Fall 2007 in the area of early childhood education.
- The alternative certification with the Chicago Teachers Fellows will be expanded in Fall 2008.

Program Information for Dominican University 2006-2007	
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S.1 Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2006-2007	311
S.2 Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2006-2007	156
S.3 Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	24
➤ 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	20
S.4 Total faculty student teaching supervisors	24
S.5 Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	6.5:1
S.6A The average number of student teaching hours per week	38
S.6B The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	15
S.7 Average total number of hours required	532