

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Mission:

The department of education prepares undergraduate teacher candidates and practicing teachers to facilitate the learning of all students, enabling both teachers and their students to act as informed, involved, principled, and productive citizens and leaders over a lifetime.

Teacher Preparation Programs:

North Central College offers a specialized undergraduate program to prepare elementary and secondary education teachers. It is an experience-oriented teacher education program based on the liberal arts. The College offers eleven (11) baccalaureate programs leading to certification in Elementary Education, Art, English, Mathematics, Music Education, Physical Education, Science (designations in biology, chemistry, or physics), Social Science (designation in history), and Spanish. Programs at the master's level include Educational Leadership and Administration leading to the Type 75 General Administrative certificate and Curriculum and Instruction.

Student Characteristics:

Of the 2555 students at North Central College, 2020 are full-time undergraduate students, 215 are part-time undergraduate students, and 320 are graduate students. Minority students comprise 13% of the student body. There is a growing number of international students from 32 countries.. Most students are from Illinois, but students come from 28 states.

Admissions Requirements:

Admission to Teacher Education Program: A minimum 2.5 GPA overall, in the major, and in professional education courses; completion of EDN 100 with a minimum grade of "C" (2.0); completion of a minimum of nine credit hours in the major field; a minimum of a "C" (2.0) grade in all professional education courses; self-evaluation and faculty evaluation of dispositions; passing scores on the Illinois Test of Basic Skills; declaration of major/minor; four year plan signed by student's advisor; and transcript evaluation, if applicable.

Admission to Student Teaching: A minimum 2.5 GPA overall and in the major at the time of application; minimum 2.7 GPA in professional education courses by the end of the term prior to student teaching; a minimum of a "C" (2.0) grade in all professional education courses; and one letter of recommendation from a faculty person in the student's major.

Accreditation:

The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools accredits North Central College. The Illinois State Board of Education approves all of the College's teacher preparation programs.

Teacher Education Vision:

The goal of the Department of Education is to prepare preservice and inservice teachers to facilitate the learning of all students. Four cornerstones form the foundation of the development of a professional facilitator of learning: knowledge and understanding of subject matter content, pedagogy, student characteristics, and the environmental context of learning.

Best Practices:

- Through an innovative Liberal Arts curriculum at North Central College, all students participate in integrative and interdisciplinary studies that focus on global awareness and leadership, ethics, and values.
- The Teacher Education Program combines theory and practice in a series of field experiences in which students take on increasingly more teaching responsibility and are held to increasingly higher standards.
- Field experiences are integrated throughout the four-year program and 40 and 50-hour field experiences are supervised. Over thirty-five school districts provide placements for supervised student teaching.
- Classroom Management is a required course for both the elementary and secondary program and its course credit was recently increased to provide an emphasis on preparing candidates to teach in diverse settings.
- The department requires a standards-based portfolio for all students seeking certification. Students are required to submit artifacts that show competency in each of the 11 Illinois Professional Teaching Standards.
- The Teacher Education Committee revised and refined the department's monitoring system to more clearly identify support and needs for individual student success.
- Of 125 syllabi analyzed by the Illinois State Action for Education Leadership Project, NCC's Educational Leadership and Administration Program ranked qualitatively higher than the rest of the programs in addressing the NCATE standards

Notable Features and Accomplishments:

- The department offers a minor in reading. Students completing this 24 credit hour minor are eligible for a reading endorsement and are recognized as Reading Teachers by the state.
- A new partnership was formed with Beebe Elementary and was awarded an exemplary partnership award by Naperville District 203. Each teacher at Beebe is assigned a NCC field experience student for reading and language arts for 20 weeks.
- The department developed a culminating event that would provide students with an audience to celebrate their professional portfolio and accomplishments.
- The department expanded its work with secondary/K-12 academic departments, identifying two assessment coordinators to work with departments on program assessment.
- The Graduate Coordinator worked with various campus and school community members to plan a second Cohort program in Educational Leadership.
- Leadership Academies were expanded to provide support for educators, leadership teams and principals on instructional best practices.
- The Pipeline to Urban Teaching Program facilitated a research group that included arts and sciences faculty, LEV faculty and local educators. The first annual alumni dinner was held.
- The Curriculum and Instruction graduate program was redesigned to provide a teacher as leader emphasis, with the addition of elective strands in reading, math and leadership.
- The department revised its mission statement to more closely align with the College's mission statement and the department's conceptual framework for undergraduate and graduate programs

Program Information for North Central College 2006-2007	
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S.1 Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2006-2007	118
S.2 Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2006-2007	120
S.3 Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
➤ S.3A Full-time faculty in professional education	2
➤ S.3B Part-time faculty in professional education but full-time in the institution	7
➤ S.3C Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	7
S.4 Total faculty student teaching supervisors	14
S.5 Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	8.57
S.6A The average number of student teaching hours per week	40
S.6B The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	10
S.7 Average total number of hours required	400