

# ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Normal, Illinois

## **Mission**

Founded in 1857 to prepare teachers, Illinois State University is the state's first public university. Illinois State is unique among public universities in that it provides statewide leadership in identifying the needs of Illinois schools and, through coordination with other colleges and universities, in developing and delivering programs tailored to meet them." (Illinois Board of Higher Education 1994 Focus Statement)

## **Teacher Preparation Programs**

- 34 B.A./BS. Programs leading to state teacher certification.
- 12 graduate-level certification programs.
- Alternative Route to secondary teacher certification for degree holders.
- Ed.D. and/or PhD. in education in six programs.

## **Student Characteristics (2002-2003)**

Graduated 1252 teachers with bachelor's degrees.  
Granted masters degrees to 239 teachers or administrators; granted 6 Certificates of Advanced Studies and 45 doctorates.

## **Admission Requirements (Undergraduate Programs)**

*Admission to Professional Studies:* Pass ISBE Basic Skills Test.

*Admission to Student Teaching:* Pass ISBE Content Area Test.

*Exit from Student Teaching:* Complete electronic portfolio requirements.

*Program Completion:* Registrar's audit of all requirements.

Candidates must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA in all teacher education programs; some programs require a higher GPA for admission to/retention in teacher education. Admission and retention requirements for teacher education programs are substantially higher than those for graduation from the University, i.e., graduation from a teacher education program requires higher standards than from the University in general. In addition, a comprehensive performance-based assessment system is now fully implemented.

## **Accreditation**

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA-CIHE) since 1913 and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) since 1954 have accredited ISU. All programs are fully approved by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and nationally recognized by specialized professional associations. The most recent NCATE/ISBE joint review took place in November 2003 with a five day site visit.

# CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

## **Teacher Education Vision**

Illinois State University's goal is to prepare teachers who have a strong sense of themselves and their mission as teachers and who, through caring and knowing, help their students realize the democratic ideal.

## **Best Practices**

- Secondary education teachers earn a major in the discipline.
- Elementary teachers complete an 18-hour specialty in an academic area.
- Middle level teachers complete an NMSA approved program, with two or more areas of specialization in an academic discipline.
- University/school partnerships: year-long Professional Development School (PDS) experiences in Wheeling, Pekin, Chicago, Peoria, Two Rivers, and Bloomington-Normal.
- All teacher candidates complete early experiences at the University Laboratory K-12 School, one of only 85 laboratory schools in the nation.
- 80% of Illinois State supported candidates obtain National Board Certification as compared with 47% nationally (1998-2002).

## **Notable Features and Accomplishments**

- Home of state professional organizations, including Illinois Principals Association, Illinois Association of School Administrators, Illinois Association of Teachers of English, Illinois Women Administrators; state home of Illinois Special Olympics.
- Faculty consists of scholars and creative artists of repute in their disciplines and pedagogical specialists in disciplines that offer teacher certification programs.
- University rewards the scholarship of pedagogy by faculty.
- One in seven teachers in Illinois public schools graduated from Illinois State, the largest producer of teachers in the state, and consistently among the 10 largest producers in the nation (2002-2003 AACTE data)
- Twenty percent of all individuals since 1973-74 named state Teachers of the Year are Illinois State graduates.
- The lead university in Illinois on a 5-year federal \$12,000,000 Teacher Quality grant.
- Received a total of \$2,250,000 in federal grants to prepare bilingual teachers for the state.
- Member of the prestigious Holmes Partnership, University Council for Education Administration, and National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER).
- The NNER focuses on the Agenda for Democracy in Education, consistent with the conceptual framework at Illinois State University, "Realizing the Democratic Ideal."
- Professor Robert L. Fisher named the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) Teacher Educator of the Year 2004.
- Initiated the Chicago Pipeline with federally earmarked funds to prepare more teachers for the city.

**Program Information for Illinois State University  
2002-2003**

<b>S.1</b> Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2002-2003	4986
<b>S.2</b> Number of students in supervised student teaching in academic year 2002-2003	1195
Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
<b>S.3A</b> Full-time faculty in professional education	53
<b>S.3B</b> Part-time faculty in professional education but full-time in the institution	22
<b>S.3C</b> Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	94
<b>S.4</b> Total faculty student teaching supervisors	169
<b>S.5</b> Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	7.7:1
<b>S.6A</b> The average number of student teaching hours per week	36
<b>S.6B</b> The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	15
<b>S.7</b> Average total number of hours required	540