

**CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION**

***Mission:***

The University of Illinois at Springfield provides an intellectually rich, collaborative, and intimate learning environment for students, faculty, and staff, while serving local, regional, state, national, and international communities.

***Teacher Preparation Programs:***

The University of Illinois at Springfield offers, at present, certification in Elementary Education and Secondary English, Math, Science: Biology, Science: Chemistry, Social Science: History, Social Science: Political Science, and Social Science: Sociology/Anthropology. Students either enter with, or earn, a degree in the liberal arts at the same time they are working on certification.

***Student Characteristics:***

The average undergraduate age is 28, and average graduate age is 32. Fifty-five percent of UIS students attend part-time and 45% full-time. Fifty-eight percent of the student body is undergraduate, 42% are master's students, and <1% are doctoral students. Of the total student body, 57% are female, 26% are minorities, and 6.6% are international.

***Admissions Requirements:***

**Admission to Teacher Education Program:**

Candidates must formally apply to the program with a 2.5 GPA and passing scores on the Illinois Basic Skills exam. In addition, candidates must satisfy a set of prerequisite requirements before being admitted, including a fingerprint background check.

**Admission to Student Teaching:**

Students must have completed at least 120 clock hours of approved pre-student-teaching clinical experiences, have passed the content area certification exam, have a 2.5 GPA overall, a 2.75 GPA in their major, and a GPA of 3.0 in their professional education courses. Department approval is required.

***Accreditation:***

The University of Illinois at Springfield is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The Illinois State Board of Education has accredited the University of Illinois at Springfield's teacher preparation programs.

***Teacher Education Vision:***

Teacher education at the University of Illinois at Springfield prepares reflective practitioners who are proficient in academic content and professional skills. Candidates understand the nature of development and learning, are professionally responsive to issues of diversity and civic responsibility, and are active decision makers and critical thinkers. Candidates in teacher education are prepared to function in the future technological school/educational setting.

***Best Practices:***

- Curriculum is built upon standards and characterized by continuous assessment of student knowledge, skills, and dispositions.
- Programs are governed by a Conceptual Framework including four themes: quality teaching and professional practice, public engagement, technology, and diversity.
- Courses are taught by experienced faculty who are teacher-scholars and who model effective teaching.
- Students engage in service learning activities consistent with the commitment to public engagement.
- Instructional technologies are integrated across all teacher education programs.
- Diversity is a key component of curriculum and field experiences.
- Degree-seeking students complete a Liberal Arts major and a rigorous Teacher Education minor leading to initial certification.
- Non-traditional certification-only students complete the equivalent course load of the Teacher education minor.
- Students create an online TaskStream Portfolio as part of the capstone experience.

***Notable Features and Accomplishments:***

- Full-time tenured and tenure track faculty hold doctorate degrees and have significant experience in public and / or private schools settings
- All full-time faculty hold tenure or are on the tenure-track. All faculty have significant experience in public and/or private school settings.
- The program has consistent, fair, and high standards for admission, retention, and graduation
- UIS offers an online, blended program leading to certification in Mathematics.
- Project Mid-state Student Support for Teaching is in its eighteenth year of providing support to teacher education candidates through collaboration with area schools and community colleges.
- The program offers a seventeen-hour sequence of courses in the basics of American Sign Language (ASL) taught by native speakers.

<p align="center"><b>Program Information for University of Illinois at Springfield 2007-2008</b></p>
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<b>S.1</b> Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2007-2008	<b>271</b>
<b>S.2</b> Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2007-2008	<b>50</b>
<b>S.3</b> Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
➤ <b>S.3A</b> Full-time faculty in professional education	<b>1</b>
➤ <b>S.3B</b> Part-time faculty in professional education but full-time in the institution	
➤ <b>S.3C</b> Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	<b>24</b>
<b>S.4</b> Total faculty student teaching supervisors	<b>25</b>
<b>S.5</b> Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	<b>2:1</b>
<b>S.6A</b> The average number of student teaching hours per week	<b>40</b>
<b>S.6B</b> The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	<b>12</b>
<b>S.7</b> Average total number of hours required	<b>480</b>