

# Quality of Teacher Preparation

## Title II 2007-2008 Institutional Report Summary for Nebraska

### *General Information*

Currently, there are seventeen (17) approved teacher preparation programs, fourteen (14) of which are nationally accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Nebraska has no low-performing teacher preparation programs.

Nebraska does not have an exit test required for licensure, so institutions were not required to report pass rates. The Praxis I Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST), which tests basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics, is used as an admission requirement to Nebraska teacher preparation programs. Therefore, the completer rate on licensure tests is 100% since students cannot complete programs without successfully passing the PPST.

The following table presents information compiled from Nebraska institutions' 2007-2008 Title II reports. Each institution reported the students enrolled in teacher preparation programs, number of supervised student teachers in the program, number of completers (undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students completing an initial education program), and the number of student teaching hours required by the respective institution.

### *Program Information Data*

Institution	Enrolled Students	Supervised Student Teachers	Program Completers	Student Teaching Hours Required
Chadron State College*	393	84	89	640
College of St. Mary	139	44	43	640
Concordia University*	247	82	84	560
Creighton University*	128	45	47	525
Dana College*	158	35	36	640
Doane College*	215	76	73	560
Grace University	97	9	9	640
Hastings College*	114	40	40	640
Midland College	148	26	26	640
NE Wesleyan University*	154	50	50	640
Peru State College*	614	117	119	640
Union College*	99	25	25	520
University of NE-Kearney*	1,624	219	203	640
University of NE-Lincoln*	1,455	375	394	640
University of NE-Omaha*	1,479	291	240	560
Wayne State College*	882	128	124	720
York College*	133	18	18	640
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8,079</b>	<b>1,664</b>	<b>1,620</b>	

\*accredited by NCATE

## **Contextual Information from Institutional Reports**

### ***Chadron State College***

Prior to admission, teacher education candidates must maintain a 2.50 GPA, complete 47 hours in General Studies requirements, and achieve a passing score on the state approved basic skills test (PPST). Screening procedures are in place at all three levels of the Teacher Education Program. The initial screening requires four prerequisite courses that provide the foundation for all future coursework and experience, ten hours of field observation, and teacher evaluations from observed classrooms. Before the end of the junior year, a student who has successfully completed the initial screening can be fully accepted into the Teacher Education Program. Successful candidates are assessed on the basis of content and pedagogical knowledge, faculty and community recommendations, screening committee evaluations, and portfolios. If all requirements are met, a candidate enters into the Professional Year. The student receives instructions in methods, human relations, classroom management, content area reading, and assessment in the first semester, and student teaches in the second semester. Each application for the Professional Year must be considered and approved by the academic department(s) in which the applicant is pursuing an area or areas of specialization.  
[www.csc.edu/e/education/education.htm](http://www.csc.edu/e/education/education.htm)

### ***College of St. Mary***

After successfully completing Introduction to Education and Special Education courses, students are eligible to seek admission to the Teacher Education Program. In order to be accepted into the Teacher Education Program, a student must achieve a minimum passing score on the PPST, have a minimum 2.50 GPA, receive recommendations from the advisor and one faculty member, and complete all required forms. In addition to the above, candidates applying for student teaching experiences must complete 100 hours in preservice field experiences, complete all professional courses in skills and methodology, and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.50 (a 2.75 GPA in teaching fields). The Teacher Education Program provides formative and summative assessments. Formative evaluations include evaluations by college supervisors, SMART Lab attitudinal surveys, and student teacher observation and evaluation forms. Summative evaluations include a senior research project, student teacher final evaluations, and graduation/certification review.  
[www.csm.edu/education\\_department/](http://www.csm.edu/education_department/)

### ***Concordia University***

The Teacher Education Program requires sophomore standing, a cumulative GPA of 2.50, completing initial requirements of a individual teaching portfolio, a passing PPST score, a series of interviews to verify physical and mental fitness, and completion of required forms. Student progress is monitored each semester. Students must maintain a 2.667 GPA in all education courses, complete coursework in Human Relations and Special Education, and complete a minimum of 100 hours of field based experience prior to student teaching. Elementary education majors must complete a content area specialization and secondary education majors must complete two subject areas or one broad field. When applying for student teaching, a student must have completed all requirements for admission and the first three phases of the education portfolio. Student teachers must attend a two-day Student Teaching Seminar which focuses on addressing identified issues with each other, advisors, and faculty members. Individual education portfolios must be submitted for final review.  
[www.cune.edu](http://www.cune.edu)

### ***Creighton University***

Admission to the Teacher Education Program requires a 2.50 GPA, a passing PPST score, grades of C or above in Professional Education courses, and completion of required forms. Each student file is reviewed each semester by the Selection and Retention Committee. If a student does not meet  
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department standards, he or she is denied access to additional education coursework. Students are exposed to methodology, required to implement instruction and document skills, knowledge, and dispositions according to the goals of the department. Specific portfolio components are selected to evaluate skills, knowledge, and values.

[puffin.creighton.edu/edu/index.htm](http://puffin.creighton.edu/edu/index.htm)

### **Dana College**

Criteria for admission to the Teacher Education Program include a 2.50 GPA, passing scores on all sections of the PPST, completing Introduction to Education coursework with a C or above, and recommendations from Teaching Assistant I (TAI) cooperating teachers. Students admitted to the program participate in the Portfolio Assessment System, which assesses student achievement of program outcomes. Admission into the Professional Semester includes: cumulative GPA of 2.50; major GPA of 2.75; completion of TAI and II with recommendations from all TAI and II cooperating teachers; completion of an interview process to determine if they are adequately prepared for student teaching; and completion of the second portfolio. In order to be recommended for certification, a student must have a GPA of 2.6 and have completed a Capstone Portfolio based on program outcomes and INTASC standards.

<http://www.dana.edu/academics/majors/education/>

### **Doane College**

Students intending to work toward certification in any area must have a 2.3 GPA to enter the initial teacher education course, Education 211. Admission to the Teacher Education Program at the end of the sophomore year requires a student to achieve a PPST passing score, have a 2.6 GPA in all courses, a 2.8 GPA in all education courses and a 2.5 cumulative GPA in all courses in the major. They also must receive positive recommendations from faculty at Doane, K-12 cooperating teachers with whom they completed their sophomore year practicum experiences, and the Student Life office. Before entering into student teaching, a student must have a 2.75 in all courses; attain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all education courses and a 2.6 in all courses in the major. They must also have positive recommendations from K-12 classroom teachers with whom they completed their junior practicum experiences and the Doane teacher education and arts and sciences faculty. Recommendation of the Student Leadership Office is also required. To be recommended for certification, students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all courses; a 3.0 in all education courses; and a 2.8 in all courses in the major. In addition, they must have successfully completed student teaching.

[www.doane.edu/crete/academic/educatio/homepage.htm](http://www.doane.edu/crete/academic/educatio/homepage.htm)

### **Grace University**

Students must take the Orientation and Field Experience course before entering into the Teacher Education Program. The course offers orientation to the Teacher Education Program, state and Association of Christian Schools International (ASCI) teacher certification requirements, and completion of all program admissions documents. The experiences offered through the Orientation and Field Experience course give the student an informed basis on which to make the decision regarding teaching as a career. After successfully journaling classroom experience and completing coursework, the student must achieve a PPST passing score, receive recommendations of two faculty members, have a 2.50 GPA, and submit the required forms to enter the program. In addition to the above requirements, each student must create a portfolio which demonstrates competency in all areas of study before entering into student teaching. If a student receives positive evaluations from cooperating teachers and supervisors after student teaching, he or she is eligible for certification.

[www.graceu.edu/academics/cotb/programs/teachereducation/index.cfm](http://www.graceu.edu/academics/cotb/programs/teachereducation/index.cfm)

### ***Hastings College***

Students are formally admitted into the Teacher Education Program at the end of their sophomore year. Applicants must have completed 60 hours of college credit, passed the PPST, achieved a cumulative 2.50 GPA, demonstrated proficiency in English composition, received positive recommendations from six faculty members, and completed all necessary forms. Students at Hastings College have numerous requirements to meet before being allowed to student teach. Some of the requirements include completing a portfolio that demonstrates performance competence, demonstrating proficiency in oral and written communication, mathematics and a sequence of Professional Teacher Education courses, maintaining a 2.75 GPA in the teaching major and professional education area, and receiving approval from the Teacher Education Policies Commission.

*[www.hastings.edu/academic/education/HomePage.htm](http://www.hastings.edu/academic/education/HomePage.htm)*

### ***Midland Lutheran College***

Students applying for the Teacher Education Program must be classified as sophomores, have a minimum 2.50 GPA, complete Topics in Education coursework with a grade of C- or better, achieve a passing score on the PPST, participate in a satisfactory personal interview with the Teacher Education Committee, and complete all required forms. Students accepted into the Teacher Education Program are monitored according to program retention standards. Among other requirements, students must maintain at least a 2.50 cumulative GPA, complete 100 hours of field-based experience, demonstrate math, speech, and writing proficiencies, and develop state mandated competencies in Human Relations, Reading and Writing, and Special Education. Students applying for student teaching must have completed all requirements of the Teacher Education Program, attained at least a 2.75 cumulative GPA, received approval by the Teacher Education Committee, and enrolled in the Student Education Association of Nebraska (SEAN).

*[www.mlc.edu/academics/education/index.html](http://www.mlc.edu/academics/education/index.html)*

### ***Nebraska Wesleyan University***

Students interested in a teaching career enroll in Introduction to Education in the United States so that they have a better basis for making the decision to teach. Among other requirements, students must earn at least a 2.50 GPA, pass the PPST according to state standards, and pass the mental abilities assessment, speech clearance, and moral turpitude standards described by the Nebraska State Board of Education. To achieve student teacher status, students must earn a 2.75 GPA in their major, along with a 2.60 GPA overall. Students must have completed at least 75% of their major, most education courses, and 100 hours observing, assisting, and teaching in various school settings.

*[education.nebrwesleyan.edu](http://education.nebrwesleyan.edu)*

### ***Peru State College***

Teacher Education Program admission requirements are based upon the minimum requirements established by the Nebraska Department of Education, including passing all three sections of the PPST. In addition to these Rule 20 standards, students are required to complete a set of core courses (Teacher Education: Principles and Practicum, Introduction to Special Education, Educational Psychology, Human Growth and Development, Wellness, Diversity in Education) and successfully pass a background check prior to enrolling in upper-level restricted courses. Students also submit an application for admission into Teacher Education and develop an electronic portfolio that is evaluated by faculty members as the candidate completes program coursework. Before student teaching, students must have a 2.50 cumulative GPA, a 2.5 content knowledge GPA, successfully pass a second background check, and complete all education and content area coursework required for each endorsement program selected.

*[www.peru.edu/Education/index.html](http://www.peru.edu/Education/index.html)*

### ***Union College***

Admission to enter teacher preparation is a two step process. In order to be provisionally admitted into the program, students must make application through the Teacher Preparation Committee and present a portfolio that includes evidence of a 2.50 GPA, 20 prestudent teacher experience hours, three references, completion of Myers Briggs Indicator test, and a biographical sketch including a statement of career goals. If a student is provisionally admitted and wishes to continue in the Teacher Education Program, he or she must appear before a Candidacy Committee made up of advisors and education faculty members. The student's application must document a 2.50 GPA, a passing score on the PPST, a detailed plan of scheduled program completion, and progress in all specified areas of the portfolio. Students must annually present updated portfolios that demonstrate completion of program competencies. Student teachers are evaluated through self-evaluation and evaluations by cooperating teachers, supervising teachers and content specialists.

[www.ucollege.edu/main/academic.htm](http://www.ucollege.edu/main/academic.htm)

### ***University of Nebraska at Kearney***

There are three gateways in the Teacher Education Program: admission to the program, admission to student teach, and successful completion of student teaching. For admission, students must have a minimum 2.50 GPA, complete the initial education course and related field experience, pass the PPST, complete specific English and Speech coursework, select one field endorsement or two subject endorsements, receive advisor's approval, and complete required forms. To student teach, a student must complete the remaining professional sequence courses and field experiences, have a minimum 2.50 GPA, complete methods courses for specific endorsements, complete 24 hours in subject endorsements or 80% of the requirements of field endorsements, be approved by the department(s) offering the endorsement(s), and complete an application to student teach. Before he or she successfully completes student teaching, the student must have demonstrated 15 competencies related to Learning and the Learner, Instruction and Professional Practice that satisfies the cooperating teacher and UNK supervisor.

[www.unk.edu/acad/coe/](http://www.unk.edu/acad/coe/)

### ***University of Nebraska at Lincoln***

Criteria for student admission to the Teacher Education Program include completing at least 42 credit hours with a minimum 2.50 GPA, passing the PPST, faculty recommendations, completing college technology requirements and one communications studies course, documenting performance through submitted portfolios, and demonstrating professional promise determined by a faculty selection committee. The faculty selection committee bases determination on criteria such as academic achievement, accomplishments in areas such as second language acquisition, writing, mathematics, and science, ability to work with diverse groups, a commitment to the profession, and ability to meet its professional standards. In order to enter into student teaching, students must have a senior standing, a cumulative 2.50 GPA, a minimum average of 2.50 in professional education courses and methods courses for each endorsement area.

[tc.unl.edu](http://tc.unl.edu)

### ***University of Nebraska at Omaha***

Students seeking to become teachers must be formally admitted to the teacher preparation programs in the College of Education. Students must meet specific requirements in order to apply. These include: satisfactory completion of fundamental academic skills in general education, and successful completion of EDUC 2020 Foundations of Education and EDUC 2030 Human Relations; cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher; and passing scores on all sections of the PPST. Once admitted, candidates progress through a carefully sequenced set of courses and field experiences culminating in student teaching. In order to continue in the preparation program, students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher with no

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grade lower than C in required courses. Candidates must meet specific state, national, and professional knowledge, skills, and disposition competencies for the grade level and content area(s) in which the candidate will receive certification and endorsement. Candidates must apply for and be accepted into student teaching. The student teaching experience is under the supervision of a master teacher who has met school district and UNO criteria for serving as a cooperating teacher.

[coe.unomaha.edu/](http://coe.unomaha.edu/)

### **Wayne State College**

Admission to Wayne State College (WSC) does not guarantee entry into its teacher education programs. Students preparing for professional education must meet benchmark criteria at multiple stages in order to pass through established Gateways and move toward program completion. The first of the four Gateways consists of the following benchmarks that must be completed: notarized affirmation form as required by Rules 20 and 21; at least 15 credit hours at WSC; both a composition and a communication class with a grade of C or better; an introductory professional education class with a grade of C or better; favorable recommendations from the cooperating teacher in introductory field assignment; and all portfolio requirements. Students must pass through Gateway #2 in order to enroll in any 300 or 400 level education or special education course. The second of the Gateways consists of these benchmarks: pass the PPST; favorable recommendations from each endorsement area faculty, education faculty, and from a member of the general WSC faculty; maintain GPA of 2.5 overall and in all professional education and endorsement area coursework; earn a grade of C or higher in all upper-level education courses; evidence of curriculum development and/or instruction potential as verified by education faculty; approval of the Professional Progress Committee (PPC). Gateway #3 includes the following benchmarks: successful completion of all required coursework while maintaining a 2.5 GPA overall and in both the endorsement areas and professional education courses; and completion of the application to student teach. Gateway #4 is marked by the successful completion of student teaching and completion of all requirements requisite for graduation. Students are monitored throughout their program for knowledge, skills, and dispositions.

[www.wsc.edu/academic/education/](http://www.wsc.edu/academic/education/)

### **York College**

Before being admitted to the Teacher Education Program, students must have a signed notice of admission, complete the Teacher Education application, document proof of successfully completing related coursework, a passing PPST score, a minimum 2.50 GPA (overall and in professional development courses), three positive recommendations from faculty members, and an essay describing why they want to teach. In order to student teach, students must make application with the Teacher Education Program, hold a senior standing, have a minimum 2.50 GPA, and have completed all professional education and methods courses.

[www.york.edu/academics/Index.htm](http://www.york.edu/academics/Index.htm)