

# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## Teacher Preparation Report Card: 2007-2008

**Mission:** Founded in 1855 as an autonomous public institution of higher learning, Michigan State University is a research-intensive, land-grant university. The College of Education at MSU has a mission of leadership, scholarship, and service in education. Faculty prepare professionals for leadership roles in education; seek to understand, reform, and improve education; and examine issues of education across the lifespan.

**Teacher Preparation Program:** MSU's five-year teacher certification program combines disciplinary teaching majors and minors with teacher education courses and a full-year teaching internship in a public school. This post baccalaureate internship year combines classroom experience with 12 credits of graduate coursework. Following the internship, students are recommended for Michigan elementary or secondary teacher certification. In 2007-2008, 477 prospective elementary and secondary teachers completed internships.

**Student Characteristics:** Ninety-four percent of the students admitted to the teacher education program for Fall 2007 were traditional undergraduates, with 4 percent admitted as post-baccalaureate students. Ninety-three percent were from Michigan, and 92 percent were full-time students. The mean composite ACT score of students admitted to the elementary program was 24; for those admitted to the secondary program, it was 25. Upon admission, the mean overall grade point average was 3.3 for elementary education students and 3.4 for secondary education students on a 4.0 scale.

**Application and Admission:** To be considered for admission to the teacher education program, students must have a minimum overall grade point average of 2.75, pass all portions of the Michigan Test for Basic Skills, and complete an application which includes a timed essay. Admission is competitive and enrollment is limited. Students are typically admitted to the program at the beginning of their junior year.

**Admission to the Internship Year:** Before beginning the internship, students must have (1) completed all teaching major and teaching minor coursework, as well as all undergraduate teacher education coursework and university requirements; (2) been awarded a bachelor's degree; (3) earned a grade point average of 2.5 or above overall and in the teaching major and teaching minor(s); (4) earned a grade point average of 2.5 or above in the pre-internship, professional education courses required for teacher certification, with no individual grade below 2.0; (5) satisfied the state's technology requirements; (6) passed the required State of Michigan certification test for elementary teaching or the appropriate major and minor subject area tests for secondary teaching; and (7) met all professional conduct criteria.

**Accreditation:** MSU is accredited by the North Central Association, and the Michigan Department of Education Periodic Review has approved the teacher education program. MSU's College of Education has candidacy status with the Teacher Education Accreditation Council.

**Key features of the program:**

- All education courses are taught in sections of approximately 25 students.
- Support for learning to use information technology in teaching is integrated into the education course sequence.
- Concerns for diversity, equity, achievement, and standards are interwoven throughout the required sequence of teacher education courses.
- One course early in the education sequence includes a required service-learning component.
- Multiple undergraduate pre-internship field experiences (approximately 175 hours) build connections between theory/research and the practical situations that teachers face.

**The fifth-year internship:**

- Teacher candidates complete 30-week (900-hour) internships staged to increase in scope, intensity, and responsibility under the supervision of on-site classroom teachers and field instructors.
- Interns are assigned to MSU field instructors at a ratio of 6 to 1.
- School-university partnerships and connections for intern teaching sites are achieved by organizing mentor teachers, field instructors, course instructors, and program coordinators into three elementary teams and a secondary team, with course sections of 25 interns per section.
- Interns complete 12 credit hours of graduate-level professional study during their internship that may be applied to a master's degree program.

**Notable Accomplishment:**

For fifteen consecutive years, MSU's elementary and secondary education programs have been rated number one in the United States by the *U.S. News and World Report* survey of approximately 277 graduate schools of education.

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