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 2010-2011, 455 elementary and secondary teacher candidates were recommended for certification.

Student Characteristics: Approximately 95 percent of the students who gained admission to the teacher preparation program in Fall 2010 were traditional undergraduates, with 4.8 percent admitted as post-baccalaureate students. Ninety-two percent were from Michigan, and 86 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. At the time of the admission decision, the mean overall grade point average was 3.3 on a 4.0 scale for both elementary and secondary education students.

Application and Admission: To be considered for admission to the teacher preparation 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 and proctored essay. Admission is competitive and enrollment is limited. Students typically apply in the first semester of their sophomore year for admission in their junior year.

Admission to the Internship Year: Before beginning the internship, students must have (1) been awarded a bachelor’s degree; (2) completed all undergraduate teacher education coursework; (3) completed all coursework for the teaching major(s) and teaching minor(s), (4) earned a grade point average of at least 2.5 overall, in the teaching major(s) and minor(s) and in the professional education coursework; (5) satisfied the state’s technology requirements; (6) passed the required State of Michigan certification test for elementary teaching or the appropriate subject area test for secondary teaching; and (7) met all professional conduct standards.

Accreditation: MSU is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and the Michigan Department of Education has approved the teacher preparation program. The program is also accredited by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC).

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 120 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 supervised by MSU/K-12 field instructors at a ratio of approximately 3 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 teams.
• Interns complete 12 credit hours of graduate-level professional study during their internship that may be applied to selected master’s degree programs offered by the college.

Notable Accomplishments:

For eighteen 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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