



LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS

2000-2001 INSTITUTIONAL REPORT FOR THE PREPARATION OF TEACHERS

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Message from the Commissioner:

In compliance with the Higher Education Act of 1998, baseline data are being released on each university in Louisiana with a teacher preparation program as part of a nationwide public accountability effort that began this year. This evaluation of teacher preparation follows earlier and on-going efforts begun in 1999 by Louisiana's Blue Ribbon Commission on Teacher Quality, a systemic reform initiative coordinated by Governor Foster, Board of Regents, and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The information in this report will be used by Regents and BESE as part of a statewide effort to recruit, prepare, and retain more effective teachers throughout the state. To that end, these institutional reports will help colleges and universities, PK-16+ Councils, and PK-16+ Redesign Teams to further improve their programs. Building on this year's data, report cards will be issued on each university annually, beginning next year, to disclose institutional efforts in preparing new teachers.

*E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of Higher Education*

Mission of University

Northwestern State University is a responsive institution committed to excellence in academic and professional programs that provide students with universally applicable knowledge and skills. It emphasizes adaptability to change; lifelong willingness to learn; and professional, personal, and social relationships to enhance the quality of life.

Essential to this vision is a learner-centered environment that facilitates acquisition of knowledge and skills necessary to adapt to changing ideas, trends, and technology; that develops programs that earn national recognition for excellence and innovation; that attracts and develops exceptional students and faculty, supporting them with technical and personal resources needed to promote optimal learning of analytical thinking skills, advanced knowledge in fields of specialization, and beneficial personal and social interactions; and that forms partnerships with business, industry, and the professions that provide opportunities for hands-on experiences in which knowledge and skills are augmented and applied.

Student Characteristics of University

During 1999-2000, Northwestern State University had a total enrollment of 8,036 undergraduate and 969 graduate students during 1999-2000. A total of 3,040 students were males and 5,965 were females. The majority of the students were from Louisiana with a total of 8,399 in-state students, 549 out-of-state students, and 57 foreign students. Among students enrolled in the undergraduate program, 2,026 were black, 5,149 were white, and 861 were other races. Among students enrolled in the graduate program, 169 were black, 737 were white, and 63 were other races.

Accreditation and Approval of Teacher Preparation Program

Northwestern State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). All of the university's teacher preparation programs are approved by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Department of Education.

Notable Features and Accomplishments of Teacher Preparation Program

- Founded in 1884 as a teacher-training institution, Northwestern State University (NSU) has for 117 years prepared teachers with curriculum knowledge, classroom savvy, and advanced technology skills.
- NSU furnishes a significant number of the state's certified teachers: 45% of all certified teachers in the service area; and 7.74% of all certified teachers in Louisiana.
- NSU graduates tend to stay in the profession and in the state: NSU has the lowest departure rate (8%) of teachers leaving the profession after one year; and one of the highest rates of retention of teachers in the state.
- NSU students receive education-specific scholarships to help them pursue their professional studies: in 2001-2002, 60 students received a total of \$39,100.
- Through partnerships with 11 PK-12 school districts, NSU faculty members provide assistance with consulting and identified staff development needs.

Notable Features and Accomplishments of Teacher Preparation Program (Cont'd)

- NSU faculty members are resourceful in obtaining external funding for the teacher education programs, with a success rate of 62.5% for grant awards totaling \$1,550,000 since 1996.
- Through the Middle School On-Line Project, NSU provides resources and staff development for middle school teachers statewide.
- By producing 60% of the state’s electronic distance learning courses, NSU has a positive impact on pre-service and in-service educators throughout the state.
- In collaboration with Natchitoches Parish Schools, NSU is implementing a professional development school at North Natchitoches Elementary School to provide valuable and intensive field experiences for teacher education majors and on-site support for the practitioners and elementary students.
- Through Science Out of this World, a math/science online learning program, NSU provides nationally award-winning resources, content, and lab activities for PK-12 students and teachers globally.
- Through a recycling program for out-dated computers – Computers for Louisiana Kids (CLICK) – NSU provides middle school students with work-based technology experience.

Teacher Preparation Program Label

The following labels will be assigned to all teacher preparation programs in Louisiana during April 2002 in conjunction with Louisiana’s new Teacher Preparation Accountability System: Exemplary, Quality, Satisfactory, At-Risk, and Low-Performing. Labels have not been assigned to universities in this institutional report.

Teacher Preparation Program Data

The following data have been provided about the teacher preparation program.

1. Total number of students formally admitted to the regular teacher preparation program and enrolled in one or more courses during academic year 1999-2000 including all areas of teaching specialization.	278
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Teacher Preparation Program Data (Cont'd)

2. Total number of students enrolled in the regular teacher preparation program and alternate certification program including all areas of teaching specialization who participated in programs of supervised student teaching or supervised internships during Summer, 1999, Fall 1999, and/or Spring 2000.	186
3. Supervising faculty for supervised student teaching and internship experiences.	
a. Number of appointed full time faculty in professional education who supervised student teaching/internship experiences during Summer 1999, Fall 1999, and Spring 2000.	9
b. Number of appointed part-time faculty in professional education who supervised student teaching/internship experiences during Summer 1999, Fall 1999, and Spring 2000.	5
c. Number of appointed part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution, who supervised student teaching/internship experiences during Summer 1999, Fall 1999, and Spring 2000.	28
d. Total number of supervising faculty for the teacher preparation program during 1999-2000.	42
4. Student/faculty ratio for student teaching and internship experiences.	4:1
5. Student participation in student teaching.	
a. Average number of hours per week required of student participation in supervised student teaching during academic year 1999-2000.	25
b. Total number of weeks per semester of supervised student teaching required for student teaching during academic year 1999-2000.	15
c.	
d. Total number of hours required during academic year 1999-2000 for student teaching.	375



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*Single-Assessment Institution Level
Pass-Rate Data: Regular Teacher
Preparation Program*

Institution Name	Northwestern State University
Institution Code	6492
State	Louisiana
Number of Program Completers Submitted	119
Number of program Completers found, matched, and used in passing rate Calculations¹	119

<i>Type of Assessment</i>	<i>Assessment Code Number</i>	<i>Number Taking Assessment</i>	<i>Number Passing Assessment</i>	<i>Institutional Pass Rate</i>	Statewide		
					<i>Number Taking Assessment</i>	<i>Number Passing Assessment</i>	<i>Statewide Pass Rate</i>
Basic Skills							
COMMUNICATION SKILLS	500	117	117	100%	1928	1918	99%
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE	510	117	117	100%	1916	1899	99%
PPST READING	710				18	15	83%
CBT READING	711				32	29	91%
PPST WRITING	720				20	16	80%
CBT WRITING	721				30	26	87%
PPST MATHEMATICS	730				22	16	73%
CBT MATHEMATICS	731				48	43	90%
Professional Knowledge							
PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE	520	70	69	99%	1415	1386	98%
PRINCIPLES LEARNING & TEACHING K-6	522	19	19	100%	330	281	85%
PRINCIPLES LEARNING & TEACHING 7-12	524	17	14	82%	216	183	85%
Academic Content Areas							
EDUCATION IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	010	33	30	91%	694	667	96%
ELEM ED CURR INSTRUC ASSESSMENT	011	21	18	86%	450	373	83%
ELEM ED CONTENT AREA EXERCISES	012	21	21	100%	445	421	95%
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	020	7			77	76	99%
BIOLOGY AND GENERAL SCIENCE	030	2			52	47	90%
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE	040	1			65	56	86%
ENG LANG LIT COMP CONTENT KNOWLEDGE	041				66	48	73%

¹ The number of program completers found, matched and used in the passing rate calculation will not equal the sum of the column labeled "Number taking assessment" since a completer can take more than one assessment.



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					<i>Number Taking Assessment</i>	<i>Number Passing Assessment</i>	<i>Statewide Pass Rate</i>
Academic Content Areas							
ENG LANG LIT COMP PEDAGOGY	043				54	50	93%
MATHEMATICS	060	3			60	49	82%
CHEM PHYSICS AND GENERAL SCIENCE	070				10	6	60%
SOCIAL STUDIES	080	1			58	51	88%
SOCIAL STUDIES: CONTENT KNOWLEDGE	081	4			68	53	78%
SOCIAL STUDIES: INTERPRET MATERIALS	083	4			63	51	81%
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	090	14	13	93%	132	121	92%
BUSINESS EDUCATION	100	3			32	27	84%
MUSIC EDUCATION	110	10	10	100%	62	55	89%
FRENCH	170				6		
GERMAN	180				1		
SPANISH	190				3		
Other Content Areas							
HOME ECONOMICS EDUCATION	120	4			14	14	100%



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**Aggregate and Summary Institution-Level
Pass-Rate Data:
Regular Teacher Preparation Program**

<i>Type of Assessment²</i>	Statewide					
	<i>Number Taking Assessment³</i>	<i>Number Passing Assessment⁴</i>	<i>Institutional Pass Rate</i>	<i>Number Taking Assessment³</i>	<i>Number Passing Assessment⁴</i>	<i>Statewide Pass Rate</i>
Aggregate - Basic Skills	117	117	100%	1992	1957	98%
Aggregate - Professional Knowledge	106	102	96%	1961	1850	94%
Aggregate - Academic Content Areas (Math, English, Biology, etc.)	99	91	92%	1832	1627	89%
Aggregate - Other Content Areas (Career/Technical Education, Health Educations, etc.)	4			14	14	100%
Aggregate - Teaching Special Populations (Special Education, ELS, etc.)						
Aggregate - Performance Assessments						
Summary Totals and Pass Rates⁵	119	108	91%	2057	1795	87%

¹ The number of program completers found, matched and used in the passing rate calculation will not equal the sum of the column labeled "Number Taking Assessment" since a completer can take more than one assessment.

² Institutions and/or States did not require the assessments within an aggregate where data cells are blank.

³ Number of completers who took one or more tests in a category and within their area of specialization.

⁴ Number who passed all tests they took in a category and within their area of specialization.

⁵ Summary Totals and Pass Rate: Number of completers who successfully completed one or more tests across all categories used by the state for licensure and the total pass rate.