

## **Elmhurst College**

Elmhurst, Illinois

Physics Teacher Education at Elmhurst College provides students with a strong academic background in physics while preparing them for state-mandated broadfield science certification that allows them to teach physics at all levels including AP/honors and other sciences such as chemistry and biology at a basic level. In collaboration with the Education Department, all faculty members in the Department of Physics work with students who are preparing to teach physics. Three are full-time Physics faculty members.

Currently, there is one required undergraduate science teaching methods course totaling 4 semester hours taught by the Education Department. There are typically 1-5 physics teacher education students enrolled in the Physics Department.

Our program provides a thorough study of representative fields of physics, and requires additional study of mathematics, chemistry, and biology. The required program of study integrates a minimum concentration of 48 semester hours of science courses (not including science teaching methods courses) with a professional education sequence of 33 semester hours and a general education requirement of 44 semester hours. A total of 100+ clock hours of clinical experiences in high schools and middle schools are associated with required science methods and education courses. Physics teacher education students must complete not less than 10 full weeks of student teaching in physics. Upon graduation, physics teacher education students earn a BS degree in Physics as well as their secondary teacher broadfield science certification with a physics designation. The College does not offer an alternative route to teacher certification.

The usual program of study for physics teacher education students at Elmhurst College begins with physics and mathematics courses and an American Education course during the freshman year and continues each semester through the science methods course and student teaching in the final year. Key features of our program include opportunities to pursue education-related projects and investigations in regular physics courses, an emphasis on imparting a strong academic background in physics that provides a solid foundation for future intellectual and career development, and the benefits of a close working relationship between our Departments of Physics, Mathematics, and Education.

The College is accredited by the North Central Association (Higher Learning Commission) and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), and our science teaching programs are accredited by the Illinois State Board of Education.

For further information about physics teacher education at Elmhurst College, visit our web page at the following web address: <http://public.elmhurst.edu/physics>. For additional information not available through this web page, please contact Prof. Earl C. Swallow by email <[earls@elmhurst.edu](mailto:earls@elmhurst.edu)> or phone (630-617-3577).