

# Wheaton College

Wheaton, Illinois

The Science Teacher Education program at Wheaton College prepares students to teach physics and other science subjects at the high school level. The Physics Department has several faculty/staff member(s) working predominately in the area of physics teacher preparation. Of these individuals, five are full-time employees of the College/University.

Currently, there is one required undergraduate physics/science teaching methods course totaling two semester hours and taught by the Education Department. In addition, there are between 2-5 physics teacher education majors enrolled in the physics/science teacher education program.

This program provides a thorough study of representative fields of physics, and requires additional study of chemistry, geology and biology. The required program of study integrates a minimum concentration of 32 semester hours of science content courses (not including physics/science teaching methods courses) with a professional education sequence of 32 semester hours and a general education requirement of 68 semester hours. A total of 520 clock hours of clinical experiences in high schools are associated with required physics/science methods and education courses. Physics teacher education majors must complete not less than 12 full weeks of student teaching in physics. Upon graduation, physics teacher education majors earn a double major in physics and secondary education.

The standard program of study for physics teacher education majors at Wheaton College begins with teacher education and science content courses during the freshman year and continues through student teaching. The Secondary Science Education student at Wheaton College receives a solid foundation in the liberal arts tradition and an interpretation of the scientific nature of God's creation. Students are included in both the Education Department and the scientific discipline of their choice. Wheaton College has been granted program approval by the state of Illinois in the areas of Biology, Chemistry, Geology and Physics.

The Wheaton Teacher Education Program (WheTEP) is an experience-oriented program and sees the teacher as *an agent of change*. Teacher candidates are challenged in the areas of scholarship, service and reform to become, themselves, students of teaching and learning. WheTEP is accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and has a 100% passage rate on the Illinois Basic Skills Teacher Examination. The Department of Education at Wheaton College was presented the "Models of Excellence Award" for 2004 by the Association of Independent Liberal Arts Colleges for Teacher Education (AILACTE).

The natural sciences at Wheaton also have a long distinguished history. Founder Jonathan Blanchard realized that a working knowledge of the earth and its inhabitants is integral to a Christian Education. The continuation of this early

commitment has enabled these departments to couple content knowledge with experiential learning and research for a comprehensive understanding of their chosen field of teaching.

Given the current national shortage of science teachers and our nation's science literacy issues, there is an increasing demand for teachers who demonstrate a strong commitment to their profession. Wheaton strives for all of its teaching graduates to be champions for social justice. This will help to ensure that **all** children, regardless of any differences, are truly educated.

For further information about the physics teacher education program at Wheaton College, visit our web page at the following web address: [www.wheaton.edu/sci\\_teach](http://www.wheaton.edu/sci_teach). For additional information not available through this web page, contact us by phone at (630) 752-5041.