



University of Illinois at Chicago  
College of Education

**APPLICATION MATERIALS DUE BY MARCH 1, 2007**

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO  
UNDERGRADUATE ELEMENTARY TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**Writing Sample for Admission**

**Please read the following writing prompt carefully:**

The U.S. Department of Education cites that in 1997 there were 2.6 million public school teachers. Furthermore, it estimates that the nation's schools will hire 2 million new teachers by 2007. This means that by the year 2007, over one half of those teachers will be new teachers like yourself, who will touch the lives of millions of children with their knowledge, their passion, and their talents.

We are interested in finding more out about you and why you chose to pursue a career in teaching. In a 750 to 1,000 word essay, discuss why you have chosen to become an elementary teacher. What about elementary school teaching interests you, intrigues you, and compels you to join this profession? Consider which of the learning and teaching experiences you have had that will facilitate your becoming a good teacher. Please go beyond saying that you love children.

**Criteria for evaluation of your essay:**

- Content—the degree to which the content of your essay reflects thoughtful ideas that are well supported by examples.
- Focus – the clarity with which the response presents and maintains the main idea
- Support/Elaboration – the extent to which the main idea is supported and explained by details and reasons.
- Organization – the explicitness of the test structure or plan and the clarity of the logical flow of ideas
- Grammar and Conventions – the extent to which the response shows control of the use of standard written English and the extent to which errors interfere with communication of the main idea.

**Hints to guide your writing process:**

**This writing sample is an important part of your application. Please take your time, be thoughtful, proofread, and revise.** Those who will be evaluating your essay view writing as a *process*. That means that we believe that a first draft of any piece of writing is almost never the best that it can be. Therefore, we expect that you will go through two or three drafts of your essay, each time clarifying your thinking and ultimately turning in a final essay that represents what you really want to say in the best way that you can say it. **The final essay that you turn in must be 750 to 1,000 words, double-spaced, and typed with no larger than 12 point font.**