

Teacher Education Program

The Teacher Education Program (TEP) at Southern Illinois University Carbondale is fully accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education/ Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (NCATE/CAEP) and by the Illinois State Board of Education. Spanning the entire university, the Teacher Education Program is administered through the College of Education and Human Services and includes majors from the College of Education and Human Services, the College of Science, the College of Liberal Arts, and the College of Agricultural Sciences. Teacher education programs approved by the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board (SEPLB) are offered at the undergraduate level in early childhood education, elementary education, special education, secondary education, and in majors and minors that lead to the special certificate to teach K-12 art, music, physical education, and foreign languages.

Teacher Education Conceptual Framework:



Preparing Reflective Educational Leaders

The conceptual framework identified by Southern Illinois University Carbondale's College of Education and Human Services reflects the professional community's commitment to preparing reflective educational leaders at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Reflective educational leaders are able to review, reconstruct, reenact, and critically analyze their own and their students' performances as a means to formulate explanations with evidence. A reflective educational leader fosters his/her professionalism in practice when he/she **values students' myriad identities, equips students with the literacies required to participate in a democratic society, and engages stakeholders to make this learning accessible, rigorous, and relevant.**

Our conceptual framework views the professional development of teachers and other educational personnel to be an evolutionary and maturational process. Our goal is to prepare a competent, reflective educational leader, ready to assume the responsibilities of educating individuals but with full awareness that his or her induction into the profession continues throughout the duration of his or her professional career. We believe that our teacher candidates not only practice reflective thinking but also become practitioners of reflective action. We believe that effective teaching is characterized by interactions with students to present subject matter, followed by informed reflection on these interactions and presentations. Teachers should make decisions among methods and content based on their competence in both subject matter and pedagogy, rather than acting as technicians following a predetermined curriculum. **All unit programs are aligned to the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards as well as standards from their respective content areas.**

The model below represents the three major tenets of SIU's Teacher Education Program: ***Literacies, Identities, and Engagement:***

Literacies:

Reflective educational leaders understand the vast array of literacies students need to function in today's modern society. This includes knowledge of reading, writing, and aural communication within the content area as well as media, scientific and quantitative literacy.

Identities:

Reflective educational leaders understand the diverse characteristics and abilities of all students and how these students develop and learn within the context of their social, economic, cultural, linguistic, and academic experiences. Using these experiences they create instructional opportunities to maximize student learning.

Engagement:

Reflective educational leaders are ethical and reflective practitioners who exhibit professional engagement by providing leadership in the learning community and by serving as advocates for students, parents or guardians, and the profession.

Dispositions

The professional attitudes, values, and beliefs demonstrated through verbal and nonverbal behaviors (dispositions) as educators interact with students, families, colleagues, and communities should support student learning and development. **The dispositions of candidates are evaluated in all clinical experiences and program coursework.** These dispositions are:

The candidate demonstrates professionalism:

- dependability and reliability
- honesty, trustworthiness, ethics
- enthusiasm, love of learning and commitment to the profession

The candidate values human diversity:

- shows respect and sensitivity to the learning needs and abilities of all individuals
- shows respect and sensitivity to the diverse cultures, languages, races, and family compositions of all individuals
- strives for best practices to address diverse learning needs and abilities of all individuals
- strives for best practices to address diverse cultures, languages, races, and family compositions of all individuals
- collaborates with diverse peers, professional colleagues, staff and families

The candidate develops professionally:

- engages in ongoing acquisition of knowledge
- engages in development of research-based practices
- assesses own performance and reflects on needed improvements

ILLINOIS PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS (2013)

Standard 1 - Teaching Diverse Students – The competent teacher understands the diverse characteristics and abilities of each student and how individuals develop and learn within the context of their social, economic, cultural, linguistic, and academic experiences. The teacher uses these experiences to create instructional opportunities that maximize student learning.

Standard 2 - Content Area and Pedagogical Knowledge – The competent teacher has in-depth understanding of content area knowledge that includes central concepts, methods of inquiry, structures of the disciplines, and content area literacy. The teacher creates meaningful learning experiences for each student based upon interactions among content area and pedagogical knowledge, and evidence-based practice.

Standard 3 - Planning for Differentiated Instruction – The competent teacher plans and designs instruction based on content area knowledge, diverse student characteristics, student performance data, curriculum goals, and the community context. The teacher plans for ongoing student growth and achievement.

Standard 4 - Learning Environment – The competent teacher structures a safe and healthy learning environment that facilitates cultural and linguistic responsiveness, emotional well-being, self-efficacy, positive social interaction, mutual respect, active engagement, academic risk-taking, self-motivation, and personal goal-setting.

Standard 5 - Instructional Delivery – The competent teacher differentiates instruction by using a variety of strategies that support critical and creative thinking, problem-solving, and continuous growth and learning. This teacher understands that the classroom is a dynamic environment requiring ongoing modification of instruction to enhance learning for each student.

Standard 6 - Reading, Writing, and Oral Communication – The competent teacher has foundational knowledge of reading, writing, and oral communication within the content area and recognizes and addresses student reading, writing, and oral communication needs to facilitate the acquisition of content knowledge.

Standard 7 - Assessment – The competent teacher understands and uses appropriate formative and summative assessments for determining student needs, monitoring student progress, measuring student growth, and evaluating student outcomes. The teacher makes decisions driven by data about curricular and instructional effectiveness and adjusts practices to meet the needs of each student.

Standard 8 - Collaborative Relationships – The competent teacher builds and maintains collaborative relationships to foster cognitive, linguistic, physical, and social and emotional development. This teacher works as a team member with professional colleagues, students, parents or guardians, and community members.

Standard 9 - Professionalism, Leadership, and Advocacy – The competent teacher is an ethical and reflective practitioner who exhibits professionalism; provides leadership in the learning community; and advocates for students, parents or guardians, and the profession.