



Southwest Minnesota State University School of Education Professional Dispositions

The Professional Dispositions adopted by the Southwest Minnesota State University School of Education promote and support professionalism as outlined in state and national standards. These dispositional statements represent one of the foundational tenets of the SMSU Teacher Preparation Program.

These dispositional standards identified are developed in conjunction with the Teacher Education Conceptual Framework, Standards of Effective Practice, Code of Ethics for Minnesota Teachers and are incorporated throughout the Teacher Preparation Program. Specifically, dispositions are patterns of behaviors and actions that occur frequently, in the absence of coercion, and constitute “habits of mind and heart.” They are intentional and directed toward particular people and situations, in order to achieve goals. Teacher Preparation Program stakeholders must model and support the development of desirable dispositions and provide opportunities to weaken or eliminate undesirable dispositions. Dispositions that apply the knowledge and skills of teaching and learning are critical to becoming an effective candidate.

Such dispositions valued by the Teacher Preparation Program include, but are not limited to:

- **Enthusiastic:** Shows eagerness and enjoyment working with all stakeholders.
- **Respectful:** Treats everyone with respect and maintains appropriate boundaries.
- **Student-Centered:** Focuses on planning, instruction, and assessment to meet the diverse needs of all learners.
- **Problem-Solver:** Uses patience, deductive reasoning, and common sense to arrive at equitable solutions.
- **Leader:** Shows initiative and inspires others through their leadership qualities.
- **Receptive:** Listens and considers the viewpoints of others to enhance collaborations.
- **Communicator:** Expresses thoughts clearly and tactfully to all stakeholders when using non-verbal, verbal, and written communication.
- **Reflective Practitioner:** Uses inquiry and research in pursuit of lifelong learning. Employs reflection and feedback to gain self-awareness to grow as an educator.
- **Resilient:** Embodies the ability to persevere through adversity and setbacks.
- **Embracer of Diversity:** Embraces a culturally responsive perspective in both teaching and learning to promote social justice and believes diversity enhances the classroom.
- **Responsible:** Demonstrates dependability, punctuality, and efficiency.
- **Professional:** Presents self in a professional manner through one's cleanliness, appropriate attire, and ethical actions.
- **Honest:** Demonstrates honesty and integrity in all interactions.