

Southwest Minnesota State University
School of Education
Professional Dispositions Acceptance



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 Education Program.

These dispositional standards identified are developed in conjunction with the Teacher Education Conceptual Framework, Standards of Effective Practice, and are incorporated throughout the Teacher Education Program. Specifically, dispositions are patterns of behaviors and actions that occur frequently and 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 Education 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 Education Program include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Shows eagerness and enjoyment working with children, adolescents, parents, and adults;
- Treats children, parents, and other adults with respect;
- Has the ability and enjoys working with children and adolescents;
- Displays an attitude of patience and looks at alternatives fairly;
- Uses reasoning, common sense, and a problem-solving approach in judgment;
- Displays a positive and problem-structuring attitude;
- Shows initiative and originates or starts activities;
- Exhibits a capacity to effectively listen to others;
- Expresses thoughts clearly and effectively to children, adolescents, parents, and adults;
- Values the collegial process and is open to adjustment and revision, based on learner needs;
- Values ongoing assessment and strategies for promoting learning;
- Dependability – someone that can be counted on to get things done;
- Shows a self pride in appearance and uses best judgment with situationally appropriate dress;
- Displays a personality as he/she interacts with others;
- Demonstrates potentiality and a capability for growth and development of becoming a teacher;
- Uses a positive approach plus tact when working with children, adolescents, parents, and adults; and
- Inspires others through his/her leadership qualities.

I have been informed on what the dispositions are, why the SMSU School of Education adopted the dispositions, when assessment can and will take place, who assesses students’ dispositions, and the process for assessing and evaluating students’ dispositions.

My signature affirms that I received, understand, and agree to the Southwest Minnesota State University School of Education Professional Dispositions and evaluation process.

Student Name: _____
Print Name Clearly

Major: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____