



Southwest Minnesota State University School of Education Professional Dispositions Growth Plan

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: _____

Date: _____ Major: _____

Student Signature: _____



Teacher Education Professional Dispositions Growth Plan

This form is to be used only in the situation where faculty or staff in the School of Education observes a student in violation of one of the dispositions expressed in the Professional Dispositions statements or other forms of disposition evaluation used by the Teacher Education Program.

Please complete the form entirely and submit to the Advisor **after discussion with the Student**. The Advisor will then give the form to the Department Chair to be placed in the student advising file.

Student Name: _____ Advisor Name: _____

Disposition(s): _____

In the following area, please explain the context in which the situation occurred (e.g. course number or name, where occurred, specifically what transpired, date) and in relation to the specific disposition:

Suggestions for Student:

Student response and plan for improvement:



Teacher Education Professional Dispositions Growth Plan

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

School of Education Faculty/Staff: _____ Date: _____

Education Dept. Chair Signature: _____ Date: _____

Action taken by Advisor:

Advisor Date: _____

Follow-up to document improvement:

Advisor Date: _____

Action Taken by Teacher Education Department:

Department Date: _____

This form will be given to the Department Chair to be placed in the Student's advising folder. This action may be appealed by writing a formal statement of appeal to the Chair of the Education Department. If an appeal is filed, the Chair will convene a faculty panel within ten (10) University business days to hear the appeal. Further appeals should be directed to the Dean of Business, Education, and Professional Studies following the usual SMSU appeal process.