

Student Professional Practice/Fitness to Teach Policy

College of Education Licensure Coursework for K-12 Programs

2023-2024

The College of Education at the University of Utah, in coordination with the Urban Institute for Teacher Education (UITE), offers a nationally accredited curriculum designed to prepare individuals for the teaching profession. However, satisfying the curriculum, field-based, and testing requirements alone does not ensure recommendation to the state of Utah for a teaching license. Prospective licensure candidates must also demonstrate professional dispositions for teaching in accordance with program, university, state, and national requirements for professional licensure.

Dispositions for teaching are defined as the behavioral and social abilities expected of an education professional. (i.e., UETS, CAEP, USBE). Education professionals must possess the maturity required for the full utilization of their intellectual abilities, for the exercise of good judgment, and for the development of effective relationships with students, parents and colleagues. Education professionals must be good communicators and role models and possess qualities of compassion, integrity, concern for others, commitment, motivation and teamwork. Education professionals must develop mature, sensitive and professional and effective relationships with students of all genders, ages, races, lifestyles, sexual orientations, abilities, language, and cultural backgrounds, as well as with their families, with other teachers and administrators, and with all members of the learning and working community. Education professionals must be self-reflective and have the ability to assimilate appropriate suggestions and criticism and, if necessary, respond by modifying their behavior. Education professionals must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the teaching environment. Actions that violate the standards for education professionals include but are not limited to:

- verbally destructive or inappropriate, physically aggressive and/or unprofessional behavior toward course instructor(s) or teachers, classmates;
- inappropriate, destructive, aggressive, or unprofessional behavior towards instructor(s), classmates, or professionals in the field in writing (e.g., electronic communications by cell phone/text, email, blogging, Facebook, and/or other social network communications).

As a professional preparation program, the UITE reserves the right to recommend or fail to recommend admission into the teacher licensure program based upon a series of stated criteria, including the dispositions for teaching set forth in this policy. Thus, prior to admission to the UITE, students enrolled in licensure course work will be apprised of the Fitness to Teach (FTT) policy. This policy applies to all students completing pre-licensure coursework in the College of Education at the University of Utah.

In the event that a course instructor or clinical placement advisor develops concerns about a licensure candidate's disposition for teaching, those concerns will be presented in writing to the candidate. The candidate may provide a written response to the concerns. The instructor memo as well as the candidate's response (if there is one) is then sent to the FACTE Committee. The Faculty Advisory Committee on Teacher Education (FACTE) will consider the instructor's concerns, the response from the candidate, and write a consensus opinion of the concerns. All documents will be placed in the admissions file of the candidate and reviewed for admission into the UITE.