

Teacher Education Program

College of Education and Human Studies

Conceptual Framework: A Teacher-Student Dynamic of Sensitivity, Reflection and Faith

Mission Statement

The mission of the Teacher Education Program is to prepare highly effective educators within an environment of sensitivity, reflection, and faith.

Description of the Statement: Effective educators demonstrate knowledge in their respective fields, sensitivity to students' diverse learning needs, reflection in scholarship and inquiry, motivation of their students' becoming life-long learners, and a careful examination of their worldview and integration of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

Goals

On completion of the Teacher Education Program, students will have developed:

1. Understanding of the growth and development of children and adolescents and sensitivity to their diverse learning needs;
2. Academic competence in a broad base of general education and in a major appropriate for the licensure being sought
3. Knowledge of a variety of effective teaching methods and materials which utilize skills that effectively apply content knowledge and knowledge of children and adolescents to the learning environment;
3. Awareness that teachers need continuing professional growth to remain effective and desire to pursue further study;
5. Knowledge of the ethical and professional responsibilities of teachers and an understanding of the teacher's role as a leader in the community;
6. A desire to have a lifestyle that demonstrates Christian values.

Program Leadership

Dottie Myatt (1994). Professor of Education and Assistant Dean for Teacher Education and Accreditation. B.S., Lambuth University; M.Ed., Union University; Ed.D., University of Memphis.

Melessia Mathis (1998). Assistant Professor of Education and Director of Clinical Experiences. B.S., University of Alabama; M.Ed., University of Memphis. Additional study, Cumberland University.

NCATE Accreditation: The Teacher Education Program is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) 2010 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036; phone 202-466-7496. This accreditation covers initial teacher preparation programs and advanced educator programs.

Profile of the Teacher Education Program

To be licensed to teach in the State of Tennessee, prospective teachers must earn a bachelor's degree with a major in an academic field and meet specific competencies needed in the teaching profession.

Admission To & Continuation In The TEP And Admission To Student Teaching

Admission to the TEP: Undergraduate students must meet the following requirements for admission to the Teacher Education Program:

1. Minimum of 24 semester hours in general education.
2. Minimum GPA of 2.5 in all course work at Union University.
3. Interview with the Teacher Education Screening Committee.
4. Field experience in education at the appropriate grade level; field experience acquired through transfer credit must be verified with a course description or syllabus indicating the total hours completed and the placement.
5. Satisfactory scores on the PPST (Reading=174, Math=173, Writing=173), **or** ACT (Composite of 22e), **or** SAT(R) (Combined score of 1020).
6. Approval of the School of Education.
7. Approval of the Teacher Education Committee.

Application to the TEP. EDU 150, Foundations of American Education, should be taken during the second semester of the freshman year or during the first semester after transfer. The application to the TEP is submitted during this course, and a 20-hour field experience in an approved setting is also completed. By completing the admission process early in the college career, a student is able to take courses that require admission to the TEP when they are

offered. A student who has transferred the equivalent of EDU 150 should make application to the TEP immediately upon entrance to Union.

Continuation in the TEP. In order to remain in the TEP following admission, the student must maintain a GPA of 2.5 in all course work, in the major, and in the professional education core. A recommendation from the student's major department is required during the junior year for continuation in the TEP. Students must successfully complete assessment stages 1 and 2 of the portfolio process.

Admission to student teaching. Students must file an application in order to be admitted to student teaching before the posted deadline during the semester prior to student teaching. Applications are available in the Education Department. Other requirements for student teaching are as follows:

1. Minimum scores on all applicable portions of the Praxis II series.
2. Minimum GPA of 2.5 in all course work.
3. Minimum GPA of 2.75 in the major; some major departments require a higher minimum GPA in the major.
4. Minimum GPA of 2.75 in the professional education core.
5. Portfolio assessment stage 3 must be successfully completed.
6. Completion of the professional education core.
7. Lack no more than one course for completion of the endorsement requirements.
8. Recommendation from the major department.
9. Approval of the Dean of Students.
10. Approval of the Teacher Education Committee.
11. When the student is required to complete student teaching as a part of graduation requirements, the student must have a degree audit no later than the semester prior to student teaching.

While no courses may be taken during the semester of student teaching, student teaching seminars are held on Thursday afternoon from 3:30-5:00, and **attendance is mandatory**.

Application for teacher licensure. Applications for Tennessee teacher licensure are completed during a student teaching seminar and are filed by the licensing officer with the Tennessee State Department of Education when all course work (including student teaching) is completed.

Academic Policies

Minimum GPA requirements. Minimum GPA's are listed above. Following admission to the TEP, if the GPA drops below the minimum, the student is removed from the TEP and may not take any courses that require admission to the TEP. In this case it is strongly recommended that the student repeat courses that caused the GPA to fall below the minimum required. When the GPA is at or above the minimum, the student will be submitted for readmission to the TEP.

Early field experiences. As is required by national standards and by the Tennessee State Department of Education guidelines, early field experiences are a vital part of the TEP at Union. The purpose of these early field experiences is to introduce the prospective teacher to a variety of school settings, learners, and routine activities. The knowledge and skills introduced in course work will be refined in the early field experiences.

Proof of professional liability insurance is required of all students enrolled in courses with field experiences. This expense is the responsibility of the student. Options for this coverage include, but are not limited to, membership in Student Tennessee Education Association, Christian Educators' Association International, or Professional Educators of Tennessee. Liability insurance is also available through Union University. Information about each of these options is available through the Assistant Dean for Teacher Education.

Appeals. The School of Education is charged with the responsibility to follow the established policies for admission to and completion of the TEP. The Teacher Education Committee, which includes representatives of the faculty from across the university, is the TEP coordinating and policy-making body for the unit and is responsible for assuring that the established policies are followed. If the student feels that established policy or practice is not being followed, the Teacher Education Committee should be contacted. The Teacher Education Committee is also the appeals committee for the TEP. All appeals for variance from established policy and practice should be presented in writing to the Dean of the College of Education and Human Studies. The Dean will consider whether the appeal may, within established policy, be granted. If the appeal has been denied by the Dean, the student may choose to direct the appeal to the Teacher Education Committee. The student should contact the chairman of the TEC and present the appeal in writing. After the TEC has considered the appeal, the student will be notified in writing of the committee's determination.

Assessment of student outcomes. Students are required to submit a professional portfolio at 4 stages throughout the program. The portfolio verifies acquisition of knowledge, skills, and dispositions required by institutional, state and national standards. To be admitted to student teaching, students must also acquire passing scores on all applicable portions of the Praxis II as determined by the Tennessee State Department of Education. The Praxis II should be taken at least one semester prior to the beginning of student teaching to assure receipt of passing scores.

Financial Information

In addition to tuition, a fee will be charged all students engaged in enhanced student teaching and extended field experience. This is used to meet part of the expenses of the cooperating teacher stipend and travel expenses incurred by the university supervisor. A materials fee is also charged for student teaching and appropriate courses throughout the curriculum and to cover costs directly related to the course or laboratory. Current materials and experience fees are indicated in the "Financial Information" section of the *Catalogue*.

Programs of Study in Teacher Education

Students seeking licensure in secondary areas must complete the major in the endorsement area and the **Secondary Professional Education** consisting of EDU 150, 250, 326, Secondary methods course within the content area, 433 or 435; PSY 213, 318; SE/PSY 225.

Programs of study for each endorsement area are as follows:

Business Education 7-12: Complete the Accounting, Economics/Finance, Management, or Marketing major as outlined in the McAfee School of Business Administration section of the *Catalogue* for licensure plus the Secondary Professional Education.

Business Education 7-12 & Business Technology 7-12: Complete the Accounting, Economics/Finance, Management, or Marketing major as outlined in the McAfee School of Business Administration section of the *Catalogue* for licensure, plus the Secondary Professional Education.

Business Technology 7-12: Complete the Accounting, Economics/Finance, Management, or Marketing major as outlined in the McAfee School of Business Administration section of the *Catalogue* for licensure, plus the Secondary Professional Education. This endorsement area is offered as dual licensure with Business Education 7-12.

Biology 7-12: Complete the Biology major as outlined in the Dept. of Biology section of the *Catalogue* for licensure, plus the Secondary Professional Education.

Chemistry 7-12: Complete the Chemistry major as outlined in the Dept. of Chemistry section of the *Catalogue* for licensure plus the Secondary Professional Education.

Chemistry 7-12 & Physics 7-12 dual endorsements: Complete the Chemical/Physics major as outlined in the Dept. of Chemistry section of the *Catalogue* for licensure, plus the Secondary Professional Education.

Early Childhood Educ., PreK-3: Complete the Learning Foundations major and the Professional Education tailored for licensure in Early Childhood Education PreK-3 as outlined in the School of Education section of the *Catalogue*.

Economics 7-12: Complete the Economics/Finance major as outlined in the McAfee School of Business Administration section of the *Catalogue* for licensure, plus the Secondary Professional Education. This program leads to dual licensure in Economics 7-12 and Business 7-12.

Elementary K-6: Complete the Learning Foundations major and the Professional Education tailored for licensure in K-6 as outlined in the School of Education section of the *Catalogue*.

English 7-12: Complete the English major with either Literature or Writing concentration as outlined in the Dept. of English section of the *Catalogue* for licensure, plus the Secondary Professional Education.

English as a Second Language PreK-12: Complete the TESL major as outlined in the Dept. of Language section of the *Catalogue* for licensure, plus the Secondary Professional Education.

French 7-12: Complete the French major, Teacher Education track, as outlined in the Dept. of Language section of the *Catalogue* plus the Secondary Professional Education.

Government 7-12: Complete the Political Science major as outlined in the Dept. of History & Political Science section of the *Catalogue* for licensure, plus the Secondary Professional Education.

Health K-12: Complete the Physical Education and Health major as outlined in the Dept. of Physical Education, Wellness, and Sport section of the *Catalogue* for licensure, plus the Secondary Professional Education. This program leads to dual endorsements in PE K-12 and Health K-12.

History 7-12: Complete the History major as outlined in the Dept. of History & Political Science section of the *Catalogue* for licensure, plus the Secondary Professional Education.

Marketing 7-12: Complete the Marketing major as outlined in the McAfee School of Business Administration section of the *Catalogue* for licensure, plus the Secondary Professional Education. This program leads to dual licensure in Marketing 7-12, Economics 7-12, and Business Education 7-12.

Mathematics 7-12: Complete the Mathematics major as outlined in the Dept. of Mathematics section of the *Catalogue* for licensure, plus the Secondary Professional Education.

Middle Grades 4-8: Complete the Liberal Studies Major and Professional Education tailored for licensure 5-8 as outlined in the School of Education section of the *Catalogue*.

Music Education, Instrumental K-12: Complete the Bachelor of Music degree core with emphasis in Music Education, Track for Instrumental/Band Instructor as outlined in the Dept. of Music section of the *Catalogue* plus the Secondary Professional Education Core.

Music Education, Vocal/General Music K-12: Complete the Bachelor of Music degree core with emphasis in Music Education, Track for General/Choral Instructor as outlined in the Dept. of Music section of the *Catalogue* plus the Secondary Professional Education Core.

Physical Education K-12: Complete the major in Physical Education and Health as outlined in the Dept. of Physical Education, Wellness, and Sport section of the *Catalogue* for licensure, plus the Secondary Professional Education.

Physics 7-12: Complete the Physics major as outlined in the Dept. of Physics section of the *Catalogue* for licensure, plus the Secondary Professional Education.

School Social Worker, PreK-12: Complete the major in Social Work and the prescribed Human Studies minor outlined in the Social Work section of the *Catalogue*.

Spanish 7-12: Complete the Spanish major, Teacher Education track, as outlined in the Dept. of Language section of the *Catalogue* plus the Secondary Professional Education.

Special Education Comprehensive K-12: Complete the major in Special Education, the Comprehensive K-12 emphasis, and the Professional Education tailored for licensure in Special Education as outlined in the School of Education section of the *Catalogue*.

Special Education Modified K-12: Complete the major in Special Education, the Modified K-12 emphasis, and the Professional Education tailored for licensure in Special Education as outlined in the School of Education section of the *Catalogue*. To add Elementary K-8, add GEO 215 and 216; PHY 301 or 310, and ART 357.

Speech Communication & Theater K-12 dual endorsements: Complete the Theatre & Speech major with Teacher Licensure emphasis as outlined in the Dept. of Communication Arts section of the *Catalogue* plus the Secondary Professional Education.

Visual Art K-12: Complete the major in Art as outlined in the Dept. of Art section in the *Catalogue* for licensure, plus the Secondary Professional Education.

Additional endorsement: Courses required for additional endorsements total roughly the equivalent of a minor but include specified courses to focus on knowledge and skills as determined by the Tennessee State Department of Education. Add-on requirements are available through the Assistant Dean. Based on input from P-12 Directors of Personnel, students seeking initial licensure in the following areas are strongly encouraged to add endorsement(s) as indicated: History add-on Government and/or Economics and/or Geography; Biology, Chemistry, or Physics add-on another science area; Physical Education add-on Health and/or another area.

Student Services/General Information

Academic advisor. Students are assigned an academic advisor within the major department.

Practicum/Student teaching supervision. Students enrolled in practicum experiences and student teaching are assigned a university supervisor who observes the student regularly in the teaching environment and provides feedback regarding strengths and areas that need strengthening. Weekly meetings are held with the student teacher and the university supervisor.

Assistant Dean. The Assistant Dean is available during regular office hours to answer questions regarding programs of study, testing requirements, teacher licensure, employment opportunities, and other topics related to the TEP. The student is responsible for scheduling an appointment with the Assistant Dean for a Graduation Audit during both the junior and senior years to assure completion of requirements for graduation and licensure.

Director of Clinical Experiences. The Director is responsible for placement of all field experiences including observations, practica, and student teaching.