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

Mission Statement
The mission of the Educator Preparation Program is to prepare highly effective teachers 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).

Candidate Outcomes
1. Content Knowledge: Candidates demonstrate academic competence in a broad base of general education and in a major appropriate for the licensure being sought.
2. Knowledge of Learners: Candidates understand the growth and development of children and adolescents with sensitivity to their diverse learning needs.
3. Pedagogy & Instruction: Candidates demonstrate knowledge of a variety of effective teaching methods and materials to effectively apply content knowledge and knowledge of children and adolescents to the learning environment.
6. Personal Professional Growth & Development: Candidates demonstrate awareness that teachers need further study and continuing professional growth to remain effective.

NCATE Accreditation
The Educator Preparation Program is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) under the NCATE legacy standards, 1140 19th St. SW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036; phone 202-223-0077. This accreditation covers initial teacher preparation programs and advanced educator programs.

Profile of the Educator Preparation 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.

Areas of licensure: Union offers both initial licensure and additional endorsement in the following areas:
- Instructional Leadership License, PreK–12
- Biology, 6–12
- Business Education, 6–12
- Chemistry, 6–12
- Early Childhood Educ., PreK-3
- Economics, 6–12
- Elementary, K–6 / K–5
- English, 6–12 and 6–8
- English as a Second Lang., PreK–12
- French, PreK–12
- Government, 6–12
- History, 6–12
- Library Information Specialist, PreK–12
- Marketing, 6–12
- Mathematics, 6–12 and 6–8
- Music Education:
  - Vocal/General, K–12 (no add-on)
  - Instrumental, K–12 (no add-on)
- Physical Education, K–12 plus Health Education K–12
- Physics, 6–12
- Reading Specialist, PreK–12 (add-on only)
- School Social Worker, PreK–12
- Science, 6–8
- Social Studies, 6–8
- Spanish, PreK–12
- Special Education:
  - Interventionist, K–8, 6–12
  - Modified, K–12
  - Comprehensive, K–12
  - Speech Comm., 6–12
  - Theatre, K–12
  - Visual Art, K–12

Current guidelines for additional endorsements are available on the TN Department of Education website.
Post-Baccalaureate Requirements

Due to continual changes in education, all licensure requirements must be completed within five years. If all requirements are not met within five years, professional education coursework more than five years old must be repeated.

Application Process. Students who seek post-baccalaureate teacher licensure must submit the Graduate Studies in Education Application; $25 non-refundable application fee; official transcripts sent directly to Union from every college/university attended; Application for Admission to the Post-baccalaureate Educator Preparation Program; Consent to Fingerprinting, Background Check, and Release of Information form and background check received directly from TBI (http://www.uu.edu/programs/epp/resources/applications.cfm); and score report showing minimum Praxis II content knowledge test for the intended endorsement.

Transcript evaluations. After the candidate has submitted the aforementioned items, the candidate should call the Assistant Dean for Teacher Education and Accreditation for an appointment for a licensure evaluation. Post-baccalaureate candidates must have a licensure evaluation completed by the Assistant Dean prior to starting classes. At this meeting the candidate will be apprised of course work that remains, EPP status, additional Praxis II requirements, any proposed changes in licensure requirements, and alternative licensure options. Licensure requirements are determined by current policy of the TN DOE, not by the Catalogue of record. It is the student’s responsibility to inquire about current licensure policies if the program takes more than two years to complete.

Application to the EPP. The application to the EPP is submitted with the Graduate Studies in Education Application. Candidates must be fully admitted to the EPP prior to student teaching.

Admission to the EPP. Post-baccalaureate candidates for initial licensure must meet the following requirements for admission to the Educator Preparation Program.
1. Satisfactory score on the Praxis II Speciality Area Content Knowledge Test for the intended endorsement.
2. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or provisional admission to graduate course work.
3. Two positive reference forms
4. Three dispositional evaluations completed by the student and the professors of the student’s first two classes.
5. Successful completion of first submission of portfolio.
6. Submission of criminal background check and fingerprinting from TBI.

Continuation in the EPP. In order to remain in the EPP following admission, the post-baccalaureate candidate must maintain a GPA of 2.75 in all course work taken at Union since completion of the baccalaureate degree and a GPA of 2.75 in the professional education core. A GPA of 3.0 must be maintained if student is in the M.A.Ed. Program.

Admission to student teaching. Candidates must file an application to student teach before the posted deadline during the semester prior to student teaching. Applications are available at www.uu.edu/programs/epp/resources/applications.cfm. Other requirements for student teaching are as follows:
1. Minimum scores on all applicable portions of the Praxis II must be received by Union before the student is admitted to student teaching; students enrolled in the M.A.Ed. Intensive Initial Licensure Program will take the PLT in the spring semester.
2. Satisfactory completion of a field experience at an appropriate level
3. Completion of the professional education core
4. Completion of one term of full-time professional education
5. Recommendation from the School of Education faculty.
6. Approval of the Dean of Students
7. Approval of the Educator Preparation Program Council (EPPC).

No courses may be taken during the semester of student teaching except in the intensive licensure program. During the semester of student teaching, seminars are held all day on designated Fridays, and attendance is mandatory.

Application for teacher licensure. Applications for Tennessee teacher licensure are completed during a student teaching seminar and are filed with the Tennessee Department of Education when all requirements are completed.

Job-embedded Practitioner License Program. In accordance with Tennessee’s Practitioner license policy, Union offers teaching endorsements in all secondary areas, Elementary K–6/K–5; Early Childhood Pre-K–3; English/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies 6–8; Special Education Interventionist K–8 and 6–12, Modified K–12, and Comprehensive K–12. Candidates for secondary endorsements qualify to be hired on the Practitioner license through Union’s program if they have passed the Praxis II content knowledge test for the intended endorsement and have submitted the Intent to Hire form provided by Union or the hiring school system. (http://www.state.tn.us/education/licensing/praxis.shtml). For more information about this license, contact the Office of Teacher Education.

Academic Policies

Minimum GPA requirements. Minimum GPA’s are listed above. Following admission to the EPP, if the GPA drops below the minimum, the student is removed from the EPP and may only repeat courses to raise the GPA. When the GPA is at or above the minimum, the student will be submitted for readmission to the EPP.

Early field experiences. As required by national standards and by the Tennessee Department of Education guidelines, early field experiences are a vital part of the EPP 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.

**Background check and fingerprinting.** In accordance with TN Code Ann. §49-5-5632, all teacher candidates must supply a fingerprint sample and submit a criminal history records check by TBI prior to beginning coursework. Information available at www.uu.edu/programs/epp/resources/applications.cfm.

**Portfolio.** The candidate must view the LiveText screencast while enrolled in EDU 535 Portfolio Submission in the first semester of enrollment. The portfolio fee is the candidate's responsibility. The candidate will submit the portfolio in the first semester. The final portfolio will be submitted in student teaching or in Mentoring Seminar II. The Educator Preparation Handbook, Vol. I is available in the portfolio template.

**Appeals.** The School of Education is charged with the responsibility to follow the established policies for admission to and completion of the EPP. The Educator Preparation Program Council (EPPC), which includes representatives of the faculty from across the university and students, is the EPP 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 EPPC should be contacted. The EPPC is also the appeals committee for the EPP. All appeals for variance from established policy and practice should be presented in writing to the Executive Dean of the College of Education and Human Studies. The Executive 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 EPPC. The student should contact the chairman of the EPPC and present the appeal in writing. After the EPPC has considered the appeal, the student will be notified in writing of the committee's determination.

**Assessment of student outcomes.** The candidate will submit parts of the portfolio throughout the program for formative assessment. The portfolio will present evidence that the candidate has met performance standards in professional education as set by the Tennessee Department of Education and based on INTASC standards. To be admitted to student teaching, students must acquire passing scores on all applicable portions of the Praxis II as determined by the Tennessee 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 of $140 will be charged all students engaged in enhanced student teaching. This fee 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 education curriculum and elsewhere in the university to cover costs directly related to the course or laboratory. Current materials fees are indicated in the "Financial Information" section of the Catalogue.

The portfolio fee will be added to the student’s account upon registering for EDU 535 in the first semester.

All financial information is subject to change without notice.