Mission of the Teacher Education Program

The Teacher Education Program has a primary mission of preparing teachers of quality and distinction. At Colorado State University-Pueblo, preparing teachers is a campus-wide responsibility, with faculty and administrators involved in support of the program’s mission. An integral component of the program is its formal partnership with 17 school districts and four community colleges in southern and southeastern Colorado. The joint efforts of students, faculty, and administrators across all partners focus on improving the quality of learning in classrooms in elementary, secondary, and higher education.

Conceptual Framework—Building and Bridging Communities of Learners

A Conceptual Framework is a guide for how a teacher education program is planned and organized, summarizing its philosophical views of the roles of teaching and learning and its essential understandings of how students become teachers. The conceptual framework of teacher education at Colorado State University-Pueblo is Building and Bridging Communities of Learners. The organizing theme of learning communities focuses the attention of faculty and students on the essential nature of teaching and learning: How does community shape learning and achievement? What are the roles of successful learners and teachers? What social interactions are necessary for both learning and community? How is the definition of a learning community changing in an increasingly technological age? What is the relationship between the concept of learning community and the democratic ideal of American education?

For faculty at CSU-Pueblo, the vision of quality education requires a learner-centered environment in which learning (not teaching) is at the core. All learners will achieve in communities in which learning is publicly and constructively discussed, a positive climate surrounds all members, and support exists for all learners’ individual growth and development.

Inclusive, equitable communities require constant attention to the nature of relationships among teachers and students. CSU-Pueblo students will be prepared to participate as learners and teachers in overlapping and expanding learning communities—from the University classroom to K-12 settings, the professional education community, distributed communities created by technology, and cultural, economic, and political communities of students and their families.

To become beginning teachers, students must change their perceptions of themselves as learners and as students of teaching. As students progress through the program, they will skillfully assume a variety of roles, including those of master learners, instructors, collaborators, apprentices, models, coaches, colleagues, and mentors. It is the mission of the teacher education program to prepare teachers and learners of quality and distinction by exposing students to quality communities of teaching and learning.

Program Goals

- Prepare teachers of quality and distinction with broad-based liberal arts education, depth of knowledge in the areas in which they teach, and the ability to skillfully translate theory and practice to ensure student learning.
- Create a learner-centered community designed to achieve program goals and expected student results.
- Provide systematic advising and evaluation activities which assure student success and program quality.
- Serve the region and state of Colorado through partnerships with school districts and institutions of higher education.

Expected Student Outcomes

The Teacher Education Program is a standards-based model of education. Student outcomes are the foundation of the program, upon which the curriculum, instruction, and assessment are aligned and implemented. Based on its mission to produce teachers of quality and distinction, the program has adopted goals in eight areas. Each goal has been articulated into a series of performance-based standards or outcomes that all students must achieve before completing the program. Benchmarks, or more specific outcomes, for each standard have been developed as course objectives throughout the program and faculty across campus have organized course requirements and assignments to assure that students can meet these standards at high levels.

Standards are aligned with the Colorado Teacher Quality Standards (2015) and requirements of the Colorado Department of Education and Colorado Department of Higher Education. Proficiency in all standards is required for successful completion of teacher education and recommendation for state licensure.

CSU-Pueblo teacher education graduates will:

1. Use democratic principles to create communities of learners that assure positive social interactions, collaboration, and cooperation.
2. Create learning experiences that make content knowledge accessible, exciting, and meaningful for all students.
3. Create a learning community in which individual differences are respected, appreciated, and celebrated.
4. Ensure, through the use of standards and informal and formal assessment activities, the continuous development of all learners.
5. Construct and use pedagogy to maximize the intellectual, social, physical, and moral development of all students.
6. Be reflective decision-makers, incorporating understandings of educational history, philosophy, and inquiry, as will as the values of the democratic ideal.
7. Create communities of learning by working collaboratively with colleagues, families, and other members.
8. Model the professional and ethical responsibilities of the education profession.

Outcome Assessment Activities

Teacher Education assesses student knowledge and skills at three points in the program: admission to education, admission to student teaching, and during the student teaching semester (program completion). Assessment activities include a review of:

1. performance documented in students’ eportfolios;
2. scores on standardized tests of general education and content knowledge;
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3. ratings of proficiency on program standards by K-12 classroom teachers, University faculty, and student teacher supervisors based on direct observation of teaching;
4. self-evaluations/ratings of proficiency on program standards by program completers and graduates one year after teaching; and
5. ratings of proficiency by K-12 supervisors after graduates have taught for one year.

Teaching Endorsement Areas

The Teacher Education Program collaborates with other academic units to offer programs leading to Colorado teacher licensure in the following endorsement areas:

- Art (K-12)
- Early Childhood Education (birth-age 8)
- Elementary Education (K-6)
- English (7-12)
- World Languages–Spanish (K-12)
- Mathematics (7-12)
- Music (K-12)
- Physical Education (K-12)
- Science (7-12)
- Social Studies (7-12)

See the Teacher Education Handbook for add-on endorsements that have been approved by the Colorado Department of Education in K-12: Instructional Technology, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education, and Special Education

Selective Entry and Retention in Teacher Education Admission

Many education courses require the prerequisite of admission to education (see description of courses). Students complete the admission to education process during ED 301 Frameworks of Teaching (4 c.h.). The entire process for gathering information and submitting it to faculty is completed during the course.

The following are the requirements that must be met to be admitted to teacher education. No exceptions can occur to these requirements:

1. Cumulative grade point of 2.600 or greater.
2. Completion of ENG 101 Composition I (3 c.h.) and ENG 102 Composition II (3 c.h.) with grades of C or better.
3. For students pursuing secondary or K-12 licensure, completion of math course required by major field with a grade of C or better1.
   For students pursuing elementary or early childhood education, admission can happen by either 1:
   a. completion of MATH 109 Mathematical Explorations (3 c.h.) with a B- or better or
   b. completion of two of the following courses with a C or better: MATH 109 Mathematical Explorations (3 c.h.), MATH 156 Introduction to Statistics (3 c.h.), MATH 360 Elementary Mathematics Concepts I (3 c.h.), MATH 361 Elementary Mathematics Concepts II (3 c.h.)
4. Completion of COMR 103 Speaking and Listening (3 c.h.) with a grade of B- or better. Students completing COMR 103 Speaking and Listening (3 c.h.) with a C or C+, or degree plus students may complete this competency through the Oral Proficiency Exam.
5. Completion of ED 301 Frameworks of Teaching (4 c.h.) with a grade of C or better.
6. Completion of a formal, standardized test during ED 301 Frameworks of Teaching (4 c.h.) such as the Proficiency Profile and a writing sample.
7. Completion of satisfactory background check with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. Background check is sent to the Colorado Department of Education and report must meet the criteria required for obtaining a teaching license in Colorado as outlined in 22-60.5-103 C.R.S.
8. Completion of an education portfolio. Six types of materials will be submitted with the portfolio:
   1. transcripts and official documents demonstrating students performance in University classes,
   2. materials developed in University classes which demonstrate proficiency on specific education standards,
   3. recommendations and evaluations from teachers,
   4. materials used in field experiences and videos of teaching,
   5. personal reflections and summaries about progress, and
   6. results of formal tests.
   Specific portfolio requirements and manner of evaluation are included in the appendices to the Teacher Education Handbook. All portfolios will be submitted in electronic format (website).

Retention

Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.600 and must continue to make progress towards proficiency on program standards to remain in the teacher education program. Additional details related to program retention are included in the Teacher Education Handbook.

Student Teaching

Student teaching provides opportunities to integrate theory with practice. Prior to being approved for a student teaching assignment, the following requirements must be met:

1. Completion of all course work including courses in the content area and education.
2. Cumulative GPA of 2.600.
3. GPA of 2.500 in the academic major.
4. Grades of C or higher in all courses required for licensure.
5. Passing score on the content exam in the student’s licensure area.
6. Successful completion of an education portfolio. Six types of materials will be submitted with the portfolio:
   1. transcripts and official documents demonstrating students performance in University classes,
   2. materials developed in University classes which demonstrate proficiency on specific education standards,
   3. recommendations and evaluations from teachers,
   4. materials used in field experience and videos of teaching, and
   5. personal reflections and summaries about progress.
   Specific portfolio requirements and manner of evaluation are included in the appendices to the Teacher Education Handbook. All portfolios will be submitted in electronic format (website).

1 The Associate Dean will evaluate transfer courses for admission purposes.
7. Successful completion of all required early field experience hours and cooperating teacher evaluations. Hours must include work at the appropriate levels and in a variety of diverse high need settings.
8. Completion of any support plans.
9. Submission of current satisfactory background check from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

Applications must be submitted a semester in advance; the deadline for the application is 5:00pm on Wednesday of week 3 of classes. Student teaching requires full time effort; therefore students may not enroll in University courses other than Student Teaching and Capstone Seminar without permission of the Associate Dean.

Teacher Licensure
At completion of student teaching, the University Supervisor will recommend the student teacher for licensure. This recommendation is required for the institutional recommendation for successful program completion and recommendation to the Colorado Department of Education for a teaching license. Recommendation for licensure is not required for completion of the education minor.

Performance Assessment Activities
In the Teacher Education Program, performance assessment is a process that documents the relationship between the stated mission, goals, program standards, and actual student outcomes. Assessment is multidimensional and comprehensive, utilizing a variety of quantitative and qualitative measures.

- Assessment of student progress is frequent and ongoing throughout the program. At three points in the student’s program, faculty completes a multidimensional assessment of progress on teacher education program standards: at admission to education, admission to student teaching and during student teaching. These assessments include a review of progress in all courses, evaluation of student performance through a student-constructed portfolio, and review of K-12 teachers’ evaluation of student performance in field experiences.
- Evaluation of progress occurs at the end of each semester after admission to education through a review of student performance in University classes and field experiences.
- Student records are maintained in the Teacher Education Office.

Higher Education Act (HEA) Reporting Requirements
In October 1998, Congress enacted Title II of the Higher Education Act (HEA), requiring new reporting requirements for institutions and states on teacher preparation and licensing. Section 207 of Title II requires the annual preparation and submission of a report by each university that prepares teachers on how well individuals who complete its teacher preparation program perform on initial state licensing and certification assessments in their areas of specialization. Universities are also required to publish information on basic aspects of their programs, such as number of students, amount of required supervised practice teaching, and the student-faculty ratio in supervised practice teaching. Information on students who completed CSU-Pueblo’s teacher education program can be found on the program’s website: https://www.csupueblo.edu/institutional-research/student-outcomes/licensure-exams.html.

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- Liberal Studies, Bachelor of Science (https://catalog.csupueblo.edu/college-of-education-engineering-and-professional-studies/teacher-education/liberal-studies-bs)