Success is not something that just happens. It is the byproduct of hard work, planning, and ethical behavior. It is also the result of a cooperative effort—your instructors’ hard work to provide courses that are practical, present the most contemporary and empirically validated teaching and assessment techniques, and offer timely feedback concerning your performance. You will be treated with dignity and respect but will be challenged to explore topics and material with which you will not be familiar. We expect you to be challenged intellectually and to learn the things you do not know rather than simply demonstrate what you already know. Therefore, do not be upset if you fail at something for it is in this process that we all learn. The following guidelines may help you map a plan for professional growth in order to be a successful student in the Department of Education.

Road maps are important for any journey that you may take. We have provided you with a road map of classes through your degree plan, but we also want to provide you with a guide for your behavior and attitude. This guide details our expectations and what we have found to be prerequisites for becoming a successful teacher. We expect you to pay attention to these principles and view them as the minimum rather than the maximum that is required for becoming a successful teacher.

1. We expect hard work, but effort alone does not produce a grade. Our programs are not designed to be easy. Rather, they are designed to be rigorous, practical and fair. The simple truth is that to complete our programs you will have to work hard. This same effort will be expected of you once you are employed as a teacher.

   Generally when people work hard, good grades follow. This relationship, however, between effort and grades is not perfect. You certainly cannot earn a good grade in a course unless you work hard, but it is possible that you could end up with a poor grade if your hard work was uninspired or designed to meet only the minimum requirements. This leads to the next principle.

2. We expect you to be an inspired and active student, unafraid to take reasonable risks. As a faculty, we believe it is important that you be an “empowered student”. To be empowered, you must be enthusiastic about what you do, willing to take charge, and be fully committed to your program of study. We want you heart and soul.

   We expect that you will be an active rather than a passive learner. We expect you to be creative. Anyone can work in an uninspired manner—we expect more. Therefore, your work
should reflect a level of creativity, effort and completeness. This will necessitate some risk-taking. There are times that we want you to follow directions, but there are other times that we will provide you with a great deal of latitude in the form and length of your projects. **SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY** and do not whine about not being given exact directions or having your hand held throughout the assignment. If you have not already discovered it, teaching is an empowered profession in which you are expected to be creative—we will expect the same.

3. Content information is important. All too often we hear statements like, “I don’t need to know where Norway is because I'll find it in a book if I need to know it.” Wrong! It is important that you know the content of what you are teaching. We expect you to have a thorough knowledge of geography, science, history, math, social studies, art, music, as well as a host of other subjects. We also expect you to have a desire to continually learn, change and adapt. This is what education is all about.

4. We expect that your work will be your best and own effort. When you turn something in, your signature or name is viewed as your “seal of approval”. Your work is a reflection of you. Make sure that it is the best work that can be presented in the best way.

5. We expect you to be professional in your dress, decorum and the content and manner in which you talk about and with faculty, staff, peers and students. Dress and behave as a professional—that is what you are. Nonspecific complaining does little to solve problems. If you have a problem, we expect you to talk to the person involved in a rational and mature manner and seek a reasonable solution. Further, we expect you to maintain confidentiality and apply appropriate discretion to professional matters. You do not have to publicly proclaim every thought.

6. We expect you to demonstrate common-sense, good social skills. Simply put, you are a **MODEL** to students, peers and professionals.

7. We expect you to enjoy teaching and have a sense of humor. There are few things worse than hating what you do. If you do not like children, parents, teachers or school buildings, then do yourself a favor and find another profession. We also expect you to be able to laugh at yourself and have fun. Life is too short not to enjoy it.