

Exceptional Student/Elementary Education Certification, B.A.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Teacher Education and Educational Leadership (TEEL) is to prepare students to become Empowered Professionals Making a Difference. Programs are designed to provide students with Knowledge, opportunities to take Action, and Leadership skills in order to produce graduates who are Decision Makers, Problem Solvers, Critical Thinkers, Lifelong Learners, Counselor/Mentors, and Ethical Moral Professionals.

Student Learning Outcomes

UWF Teacher Education graduates should be able to do the following:

Content

Teacher candidates create and manage an inclusive learning environment which facilitates positive social interactions and makes content accessible and developmentally appropriate for all students so that they can meet high academic standards (FEAPs 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2f, 2h, 2i, 3g, 3h).

Teacher candidates plan instruction which sets rigorous learning goals, reflects knowledge of content area curriculum and pedagogy, and facilitates critical thinking and problem solving through relevant and challenging learning experiences (FEAPs 1a,1b,1c,1f, 3a-h).

Critical Thinking

Teacher candidates critically evaluate their instruction using multiple methods of assessment to monitor student progress and guide decision making and problem-solving (FEAPs 1d, 1e, 3h, 3i, 3j, 4a-f).

Communication

Teacher candidates model clear and acceptable oral and written communication (FEAP 2e).

Teacher candidates communicate relevant information using a variety of technologies during the learning process (FEAP 2g).

Integrity/Values

Teacher candidates will take initiative to create professional learning opportunities and to proactively seek feedback to improve professional practices (FEAPs 5a, 5b, 5d, 5e).

Teacher candidates collaborate with colleagues, families, and community members to provide effective instruction for students from diverse backgrounds (FEAPs 4e, 5c).

Teacher candidates demonstrate and promote ethical and professional practices according to the Code of Ethics and the Principles of Professional Conduct of the Education Profession of Florida (FEAP 6).

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

The 2010 Florida Accomplished Practices are grouped into UWF's domains and are broken into the smaller Student Learning Objectives seen in the Academic Learning Compact and referred to here as indicators. The indicators are integrated into individual course activities common to all sections of a particular course. As activities are completed, they are assessed through common rubrics. Progress on the 2010 FEAP indicators is entered into a database in Tk20 at the conclusion of the semester or in a subsequent semester as needed in the case of a student not meeting the SLO.

Collective data are used to track individual student's achievement of the 2010 FEAPs. An individual student's data are checked prior to graduation to be sure each student has achieved mastery in each 2010 FEAP. The data are also analyzed and used in programmatic continuous improvement to affect policy, initiate broad curricular changes as needed, and to modify individual course activities and assessments.

Job Prospects for Teacher Education Graduates

Florida, with six of the 20 largest school districts in the U.S., has a tremendous need for teachers, including a critical need for the areas of middle school mathematics and science, reading, technology, and exceptional student education. State estimates indicate that a minimum of 20,000 50,000 teachers per year will be needed over the next several years, thereby guaranteeing jobs for graduates of state approved programs. UWF currently offers programs for:

- Elementary school teachers who teach K6 grade children reading, language arts, mathematics, science, and social sciences, managing their behavior, and assist in the development of children's social and interpersonal skills;
- Exceptional student education teachers who work with a variety of special educational needs and teach gifted, learning disabled, behaviorally challenged, and physically handicapped children.

Find Out More about Teacher Education at UWF:

<https://uwf.edu/ceps/departments/teacher-education-and-educational-leadership/>