METHODS OF TEACHING ELEMENTARY SCIENCE

Semester: Fall 2014  
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:40 p.m.  
Day: Monday  
Location: BEP 218

Instructor Information: Julie Delello, Ph.D.  
Office: BEP 235  
Office Hours: M, TH 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. and by Appointment  
Office Telephone: 903-566-7489  
E-mail: jdelello@uttyler.edu (preferred)

Course Catalog Description: A process approach will be emphasized in the study of selected science programs drawn from the biological, earth and physical sciences. Prerequisite: EDUC 3310 and EPSY 3330, three-four hours of life science and three-four hours of physical science with labs, admission to the School of Education.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:
❖ Apply personal needs regarding science content, conceptual knowledge, and pedagogy (Standards 1 and 9);  
❖ Create and teach lessons that reflect accurate knowledge of science content, the nature of science, science process skills, use of technology in science teaching, assessment, and science pedagogy (Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8);  
❖ Reflect upon their teaching experiences noting areas of strength and weakness and develop plans to improve their practice (Standard 9).  
❖ Choose from a variety of activity types in order to teach science in a way to address student needs including collaboration with colleagues, other school professionals, and the community (Standards 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10).

Evaluation and Grading:

1. Class Participation  
This course is designed as a hybrid course with both face-to-face and online meeting dates. These dates are flexible and may be adjusted to accommodate course objectives. Face-to-face classes begin promptly at 11 AM. There is an attendance sheet at the front of the room. Sign in as you enter class. Please e-mail me before class if you plan on being absent from a face-to-face session. Please allow up to 48 hours for response to an email.

2. Evaluation:
• Three interactive simulation exercises/questions (25 points each/75 points)
• Two field trip reflections (50 points each/100 points)
• Six projects (100 points each/600 points)
• TedEd/Discussion questions (10 points each/100 points)
• Final Exam: An average of four science quizzes over 5 assigned modules (100 points)

3. Grading:
   A = 90-100% of total points
   B = 80-89% of total points
   C = 70-79% of total points
   D = 60-69% of total points
   F = 59% or below of total points

4. Teaching Strategies: Strategies utilized in the delivery of the course will include: lecture, class discussion, group collaboration, online application activities, and various readings, and assignments. Two field trips will be included in the course. There will be a four dollar fee required of each student for attendance to the Tiger Refuge.

5. Required Text, Materials/Supplies, and Related Readings:

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:


2. National Science Teachers’ Association (NSTA) Learning Center Account
   - www.nsta.org:
     a) Create a Learning Center account:
        Go to the Learning Center to create a new account:
        http://learningcenter.nsta.org/my_learning_center/register.aspx

        If you already have a Learning Center account, you may login at this time using your e-mail address and password.

     b.) Pay for the NLC access/NSTA membership bundle:
        After logging-in, the student needs to purchase the NLC access/NSTA membership bundle opportunity.

        To purchase the opportunity for $67 using a credit card, go online to the web address below:
        http://learningcenter.nsta.org/preservice

        OR
To purchase the opportunity for $67 at the university bookstore, you will purchase a subscription card and then go online to the web address below to redeem the purchase using the 15-character access code found within the card: http://learningcenter.nsta.org/bookstore

c) Visit your class landing page. The page will be provided in class the first day.

Additional Required Supplies:
You will need one wooden mousetrap (Example: http://www.walmart.com/ip/Victor-Wooden-Mouse-Traps-4-count/22089956)

Related Required Readings
Texas Education Agency (TEKS) – http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter112/ch112a.html

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board College and Career Readiness Standards – College and Career Readiness Standards

Additional selected readings will be provided by the instructor

Textbooks: A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Additional Information:

Microscope ART Project: You will be required to do a poster presentation of your microscopic art project. This will be done the last class date. TBD

Field Requirement: You are required to complete 30 hours of field at an assigned elementary classroom. You are evaluated on two observed lessons by a university supervisor using the SOE Clinical Observation Rubric (COR). You must successfully complete the practicum according to their university supervisor to pass this course.

6. Course Policies and Guidelines:

a. Laptops, Cell Phones and Pagers: All electronic devices need to be set to silent mode during class time. Laptops and iPads may be used for class activities ONLY.

b. Assignment Submission:

For written assignments a “page” is defined as:
- 8½” x 11” paper
- Times New Roman or Arial 12-point font
• Double-spaced (unless otherwise directed)
• 1-inch margin on all sides.
• Put page numbers on the top right-hand side.
• Put your name, title of the assignment and date submitted on your paper.
• **Upload written assignments on the Blackboard Web site under the assignment tab**

**Papers that do not meet these specifications will not be accepted.** With respect to format and style, your paper should conform to the 6th edition APA Manual.

c. **Late Work:** Assignments and projects are expected to be handed in on time. **An assignment will be considered late if it is not turned in the day it is due.** Assignments are expected to be dropped in the assignment box on Blackboard even if you are not in class. You may turn in your assignment early. Late assignments are not accepted unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Assignments and due dates are posted on the course syllabus.

d. **Attendance:** The attendance policy recommended by the University is followed in this course. You are expected to attend every face-to-face class meeting. Course objectives and performance outcomes cannot be met unless you attend class and participate in class activities. If you are absent for an extended period of time, you should make arrangements to explore options such as retaking the course or taking an incomplete grade. If you miss more than two in-class periods, you will need to make an appointment with the instructor for a possible Disposition Conference. If you are going to be absent for an exam, you must contact the instructor on or before the scheduled time the exam is to be given.

e. **You are responsible** for all information given in class, online, and in the syllabus.

f. **Read chapters assigned from course text prior to each class meeting.** You are responsible for this information on tests as well as during class participation.

g. **Criteria for all assignments** will be available in class and posted online unless otherwise notified by the instructor.

h. **Blackboard**—You are responsible for enrolling on Blackboard (http://www.blackboard.utttyler.edu/) prior to the second class meeting and monitoring the course Blackboard site regularly for course information. Assignments will be turned in through the assignment tab in Blackboard.

Safe Assign is a tool that will be used to check a document for plagiarism. The tool provides feedback as to whether or not the text in a document is a close match with other documents on the Internet, in journal databases, and submitted to Blackboard. If a student is caught plagiarizing, a grade of zero will be given as well as a disposition for cheating.

i. **Dispositions** - All students in the UT Tyler Teacher Preparation Program
must adhere to the professional behaviors outlined in the *U.T.Tyler School of Education Dispositions*. These dispositions are listed at the following website: [http://www.uttyler.edu/education/documents/Dispositions.pdf](http://www.uttyler.edu/education/documents/Dispositions.pdf)

**Planned Topical Outline:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Of</th>
<th>General topic covered</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<td><strong>Online Modules:</strong> Course Introductions <em>Scientific Discovery</em> TedEd Questions</td>
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<td>Scientific Method</td>
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<td><strong>Project One: Off Road Assigned</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td>Week 2: No Class</td>
<td>Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 2 <em>Sept. 8</em></td>
<td>Week 3: Forces and Motion</td>
<td>Pages 45-48 <em>Booster Science</em> Assigned Readings</td>
<td><strong>Online Modules:</strong> <em>Newton's 3 Laws</em> TedEd Questions</td>
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<td>Forces and Motion</td>
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<td>Forces and Motion Simulation Activity</td>
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<td>Project 2: Kite Assigned</td>
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<td><strong>Project 1: Off Road Due in Class</strong></td>
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<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>Week 4: Circuits, Electricity, and Magnetism</td>
<td>Pages 63-72 <em>Booster Science</em> Assigned Readings</td>
<td><strong>Online Modules:</strong> <em>Electric Vocabulary</em> TedEd Questions</td>
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<td>Electricity and Circuit</td>
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<td>Module</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sept. 29</td>
<td>Week 6: Chemistry Lab</td>
<td>In Class: Lab Activities. Project 2: Kite Project Due in Class. Project 3 Assigned: Infographic.</td>
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<td>Assigned Readings: <em>Density</em>.</td>
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<td>Assigned Readings: <em>Climate Literacy</em>.</td>
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<td>Read <em>Misconceptions in Science</em> (Earth Science).</td>
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<td>Module 4</td>
<td>Week 10: <strong>Field Trip</strong> Discovery Science Place (Lab)</td>
<td>Take practice exam pages 136-158 <em>Booster Science</em></td>
<td><strong>In Class:</strong> Meet at Discovery Science Place</td>
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<td><strong>Assigned Readings</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Online Modules:</strong> <em>A Traveler's Guide</em> TedEd Questions</td>
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<td><strong>Module 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nov. 3</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Field Trip Reflection</strong> Assigned <strong>Project 4: Lesson Plan Due</strong></td>
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<td>** Assigned Readings**</td>
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<td><strong>Nov. 10</strong></td>
<td>Week 12: <strong>Cell Structure</strong></td>
<td>Read pp. 73-89 <em>Booster Science</em></td>
<td><strong>In Class:</strong></td>
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<td>Read <em>Misconceptions in Science</em> (Life Science)-module 1</td>
<td><strong>Online Modules:</strong> <em>Module 4 Quiz</em></td>
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<td>Cell Structure TedEd Questions</td>
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<td><strong>Nov. 17</strong></td>
<td><strong>Week 13: <strong>Field Trip</strong> Animals/Adaptations/Food Webs</strong></td>
<td>Read pp. 101-111 <em>Booster Science</em></td>
<td><strong>In Class:</strong> Meet at the Tiger Wildlife Refuge</td>
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<td><strong>Online Modules:</strong> Symbiosis TedEd Questions Food Chains Field Trip Reflection <strong>Project 5: AR Due</strong></td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>Nov. 24</td>
<td>No Class-Holiday</td>
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<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Week 14: Fungi/Plants</td>
<td>Read pp. 107-111 Booster Science</td>
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<td>Online Modules: Photosynthesis <a href="#">TedEd</a> Questions Field Trip Reflection Due #2</td>
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<td>Project 6: ART PROJECT DUE/READY FOR DISPLAY</td>
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<td>*Dec. 8</td>
<td>Week 15: Heredity and Variation</td>
<td>Read pp. 90-100 Booster Science</td>
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<td>Online Modules: Gregor Mendel <a href="#">TedEd</a> Questions</td>
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<td>In Class- AR ART Showcase</td>
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<td>Assigned Readings</td>
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<td>Heredity and Variation Module 5 Quiz</td>
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|          |                                            | Final Exam Schedule                                                                     | **Changes to this syllabus may be made at the discretion of the instructor.**
|          |                                            | *It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with these changes. Field trip dates may change depending upon the community organization.* |

**Note: The last day to withdraw from one or more University courses is October 27th.**

**Students Rights and Responsibilities**

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:
http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

**Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies**

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For fall 2014, the Census Date is September 8th.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career.
at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date (Sept. 8th) is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.
Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement:
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation:
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct: Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

(i) “Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:
• copying from another student’s test paper;
• using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
• failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
• possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
• using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
• collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
• discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
• divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
• substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
• paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
• falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
• taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
• misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

(ii) “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

(iii) “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

(iv) All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by SafeAssign™, available on Blackboard.

College of Education and Psychology (CEP) Vision and Mission

Vision: The College of Education and Psychology is nationally recognized and respected for its academic programs and opportunities. It is a center of academic excellence, scholarly inquiry, and public service. The College prepares leaders to meet the critical challenges of the 21st Century through productive contributions to local and global communities and toward individual and cultural equity.

Mission: The mission of the College of Education and Psychology is to provide a positive environment that fosters the acquisition of knowledge and skills. The mission is individually and collectively realized through a community of scholars that contributes to knowledge through scholarly inquiry; organizes knowledge for application, understanding and communication; and provides leadership and service. We affirm and promote global perspectives that value individual and cultural diversity to enhance learning, service, and scholarship.

Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators

Texas Administrative Code

TITLE 19 EDUCATION
PART 7 STATE BOARD FOR EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION
CHAPTER 247 EDUCATORS’ CODE OF ETHICS
RULE §247.2 Purpose and Scope; Definitions
(b) Enforceable Standards.
(1) Professional Ethical Conduct, Practices and Performance.

(A) Standard 1.1. The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly engage in deceptive practices regarding official policies of the school district, educational institution, educator preparation program, the Texas Education Agency, or the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) and its certification process.

(B) Standard 1.2. The educator shall not knowingly misappropriate, divert, or use monies, personnel, property, or equipment committed to his or her charge for personal gain or advantage.

(C) Standard 1.3. The educator shall not submit fraudulent requests for reimbursement, expenses, or pay.

(D) Standard 1.4. The educator shall not use institutional or professional privileges for personal or partisan advantage.

(E) Standard 1.5. The educator shall neither accept nor offer gratuities, gifts, or favors that impair professional judgment or to obtain special advantage. This standard shall not restrict the acceptance of gifts or tokens offered and accepted openly from students, parents of students, or other persons or organizations in recognition or appreciation of service.

(F) Standard 1.6. The educator shall not falsify records, or direct or coerce others to do so.

(G) Standard 1.7. The educator shall comply with state regulations, written local school board policies, and other state and federal laws.

(H) Standard 1.8. The educator shall apply for, accept, offer, or assign a position or a responsibility on the basis of professional qualifications.

(I) Standard 1.9. The educator shall not make threats of violence against school district employees, school board members, students, or parents of students.

(J) Standard 1.10. The educator shall be of good moral character and be worthy to instruct or supervise the youth of this state.

(K) Standard 1.11. The educator shall not intentionally or knowingly misrepresent his or her employment history, criminal history, and/or disciplinary record when applying for subsequent employment.

(L) Standard 1.12. The educator shall refrain from the illegal use or distribution of controlled substances and/or abuse of prescription drugs and toxic inhalants.

(M) Standard 1.13. The educator shall not consume alcoholic beverages on school property or during school activities when students are present.

(2) Ethical Conduct Toward Professional Colleagues.

(A) Standard 2.1. The educator shall not reveal confidential health or personnel information concerning colleagues unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law.

(B) Standard 2.2. The educator shall not harm others by knowingly making false statements about a colleague or the school system.

(C) Standard 2.3. The educator shall adhere to written local school board policies and state and federal laws regarding the hiring, evaluation, and dismissal of personnel.

(D) Standard 2.4. The educator shall not interfere with a colleague’s exercise of political, professional, or citizenship rights and responsibilities.
(E) **Standard 2.5.** The educator shall not discriminate against or coerce a colleague on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, disability, family status, or sexual orientation.

(F) **Standard 2.6.** The educator shall not use coercive means or promise of special treatment in order to influence professional decisions or colleagues.

(G) **Standard 2.7.** The educator shall not retaliate against any individual who has filed a complaint with the SBEC or who provides information for a disciplinary investigation or proceeding under this chapter.

(3) **Ethical Conduct Toward Students.**

(A) **Standard 3.1.** The educator shall not reveal confidential information concerning students unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law.

(B) **Standard 3.2.** The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly treat a student or minor in a manner that adversely affects or endangers the learning, physical health, mental health, or safety of the student or minor.

(C) **Standard 3.3.** The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly misrepresent facts regarding a student.

(D) **Standard 3.4.** The educator shall not exclude a student from participation in a program, deny benefits to a student, or grant an advantage to a student on the basis of race, color, gender, disability, national origin, religion, family status, or sexual orientation.

(E) **Standard 3.5.** The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly engage in physical mistreatment, neglect, or abuse of a student or minor.

(F) **Standard 3.6.** The educator shall not solicit or engage in sexual conduct or a romantic relationship with a student or minor.

(G) **Standard 3.7.** The educator shall not furnish alcohol or illegal/unauthorized drugs to any person under 21 years of age unless the educator is a parent or guardian of that child or knowingly allow any person under 21 years of age unless the educator is a parent or guardian of that child to consume alcohol or illegal/unauthorized drugs in the presence of the educator.

(H) **Standard 3.8.** The educator shall maintain appropriate professional educator-student relationships and boundaries based on a reasonably prudent educator standard.

(I) **Standard 3.9.** The educator shall refrain from inappropriate communication with a student or minor, including, but not limited to, electronic communication such as cell phone, text messaging, email, instant messaging, blogging, or other social network communication. Factors that may be considered in assessing whether the communication is inappropriate include, but are not limited to:

(i) the nature, purpose, timing, and amount of the communication;

(ii) the subject matter of the communication;

(iii) whether the communication was made openly or the educator attempted to conceal the communication;

(iv) whether the communication could be reasonably interpreted as soliciting sexual contact or a romantic relationship;

(v) whether the communication was sexually explicit; and

(vi) whether the communication involved discussion(s) of the physical or sexual attractiveness or the sexual history, activities, preferences, or fantasies of either the
The School of Education has adopted program standards that guide the development of teacher candidates in their understanding of the complexity of teaching. These standards are based on those developed by the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) and shared by other accredited universities in Texas and across the United States. The Standards are broad understandings and practices gained throughout the program using a constructivist model—new learnings are assimilated and attached to prior understandings, thus, over time, building a mental structure (schema) of educational concepts.

Standard #1: Learner Development
  The teacher understands how learners grow and develop, recognizing that patterns of learning and development vary individually within and across the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical areas, and designs and implements developmentally appropriate and challenging learning experiences.

Standard #2: Learning Differences
  The teacher uses understanding of individual differences and diverse cultures and communities to ensure inclusive learning environments that enable each learner to meet high standards.

Standard #3: Learning Environments
  The teacher works with others to create environments that support individual and collaborative learning, and that encourage positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self motivation.

Standard #4: Content Knowledge
  The teacher understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) he or she teaches and creates learning experiences that make these aspects of the discipline accessible and meaningful for learners to assure mastery of the content.

Standard #5: Application of Content
  The teacher understands how to connect concepts and use differing perspectives to engage learners in critical thinking, creativity, and collaborative problem solving related to authentic local and global issues.

Standard #6: Assessment
  The teacher understands and uses multiple methods of assessment to engage learners in their own growth, to monitor learner progress, and to guide the teacher’s and learner’s decision making.

Standard #7: Planning for Instruction
  The teacher plans instruction that supports every student in meeting rigorous learning goals by drawing upon knowledge of content areas, curriculum, cross-disciplinary skills, and pedagogy, as well as knowledge of learners and the community context.

Standard #8: Instructional Strategies
The teacher understands and uses a variety of instructional strategies to encourage learners to develop deep understanding of content areas and their connections, and to build skills to apply knowledge in meaningful ways.

Standard #9: Professional Learning and Ethical Practice
The teacher engages in ongoing professional learning and uses evidence to continually evaluate his/her practice, particularly the effects of his/her choices and actions on others (learners, families, other professionals, and the community), and adapts practice to meet the needs of each learner.

Standard #10: Leadership and Collaboration
The teacher seeks appropriate leadership roles and opportunities to take responsibility for student learning, to collaborate with learners, families, colleagues, other school professionals, and community members to ensure learner growth, and to advance the profession.

Standard #11: Technology
The teacher is able to create, implement, and evaluate technology to enhance teaching, student learning, and other obligations (e.g. reports, grades, tests, etc.) required of teachers

Teacher Standards

Chapter 149. Commissioner’s Rules Concerning Educator Standards

Subchapter AA. Teacher Standards

§149.1001. Teacher Standards

(a) Purpose: The standards identified in this section shall be used to align with the training, appraisal, and professional development of teachers.

(b) Standards

1) Standard 1: Instructional Planning and Delivery. Teachers demonstrate their understanding of instructional planning and delivery by providing standards-based, data-drive, differentiated instruction that engages students, makes appropriate use of technology, and makes learning relevant for today’s learners.
   a. Teachers design clear, well-organized, sequential lessons that build on students’ prior knowledge.
      i. Teachers develop lesson plans that build coherently toward objectives based on course content, curriculum scope and sequence, and expected student outcomes.
      ii. Teachers effectively communicate goals, expectations, and objectives to help all students reach high levels of achievement
iii. Teachers connect students’ prior understanding and real-world experiences to new content and contexts, maximizing learning opportunities.

b. Teachers design developmentally appropriate, standards-driven lessons that reflect evidence-based best practices.
   i. Teachers plan instruction that is developmentally appropriate, is standards driven, and motivates students to learn.
   ii. Teachers use a range of instructional strategies, appropriate to the content area, to make subject matter accessible to all students.
   iii. Teachers use and adapt resources, technologies, and standards-aligned instructional materials to promote student success in meeting learning goals.

c. Teachers design lessons to meet the needs of diverse learners, adapting methods when appropriate.
   i. Teachers differentiate instruction, aligning methods and techniques to diverse student needs.
   ii. Teachers plan student groupings, including pairing and the individualized and small-group instruction, to facilitate student learning.
   iii. Teachers integrate the use of oral, written, graphic, kinesthetic, and/or tactile methods to teach key concepts.

d. Teachers communicate clearly and accurately and engage students in a manner that encourages students’ persistence and best efforts.
   i. Teachers ensure that the learning environment features a high degree of student engagement by facilitating discussion and student-centered activities as well as leading direct instruction.
   ii. Teachers validate each student’s comments and questions, utilizing them to advance learning for all students.
   iii. Teachers encourage all students to overcome obstacles and remain persistent in the face of challenges, providing them with support in achieving their goals.

e. Teachers promote complex, higher-order thinking, leading class discussions and activities that provide opportunities for deeper learning.
   i. Teachers set high expectations and create challenging learning experiences for students, encourage them to apply disciplinary and cross-disciplinary knowledge to real-world problems.
   ii. Teachers provide opportunities for students to engage in individual and collaborative critical thinking and problem solving.
   iii. Teachers incorporate technology that allows students to interact with the curriculum in more significant and effective ways, helping them reach mastery.

f. Teachers consistently check for understanding, give immediate feedback, and make lesson adjustments as necessary.
   i. Teachers monitor and assess student progress to ensure that their lessons meet students’ needs.
ii. Teachers provide immediate feedback to students in order to reinforce their learning and ensure that they understand key concepts.

iii. Teachers adjust content delivery in response to student progress through the use of developmentally appropriate strategies that maximize student engagement.

2) Standard 2: Knowledge of Students and Student Learning. Teachers work to ensure high levels of learning, social-emotional development, and achievement outcomes for all students, taking into consideration each student’s educational and developmental backgrounds and focusing on each student’s needs.

a. Teachers demonstrate the belief that all students have the potential to achieve at high levels and support all learners in their pursuit of academic and social-emotional success.
   i. Teachers purposefully utilize learners’ individual strengths as a basis for academic and social-emotional growth.
   ii. Teachers create a community of learners in an inclusive environment that views differences in learning and background as educational assets.
   iii. Teachers accept responsibility for the growth of all of their students, persisting in their efforts to ensure high levels of growth on the part of each learner.

b. Teachers acquire, analyze, and use background information (familial, cultural, educational, linguistic, and developmental characteristics) to engage students in learning.
   i. Teachers connect learning, content, and expectations to students’ prior knowledge, life experiences, and interests in meaningful contexts.
   ii. Teachers understand the unique qualities of students with exceptional needs, including disabilities and giftedness, and know how to effectively address these needs through instructional strategies and resources.
   iii. Teachers understand the role of language and culture in learning and know how to modify their practices to support language acquisition so that language is comprehensive and instruction is fully accessible.

c. Teachers facilitate each student’s learning by employing evidence-based practices and concepts related to learning and social-emotional development.
   i. Teachers understand how learning occurs and how learners develop, construct meaning, and acquire knowledge and skills.
   ii. Teachers identify readiness for learning and understand how development in one area may affect students’ performance in other areas.
   iii. Teachers apply evidence-based strategies to address individual student learning needs and differences, adjust their instruction, and support the learning needs of each student.

3) Standard 3: Content Knowledge and Expertise. Teachers exhibit a comprehensive understanding of their content, discipline, and related pedagogy as demonstrated through the quality of the design and execution of lesson plans and their ability to match objectives and activities to relevant state standards.
a. Teachers understand the major concepts, key themes, multiple perspectives, assumptions, processes of inquiry, structure, and real-world applications of their grade-level and subject-area content.
   i. Teachers understand how their content vertically and horizontally aligns with the grade-level/subject-area continuum, leading to an integrated curriculum across grade levels and content areas.
   ii. Teachers identify gaps in students’ knowledge of subject matter and communicate with their leaders and colleagues to ensure that these gaps are adequately addressed across grade levels and subject areas.
   iii. Teachers keep current with developments, new content, new approaches, and changing methods of instructional delivery within their discipline.

b. Teachers design and execute quality lessons that are consistent with the concepts of their specific discipline, are aligned to state standards, and demonstrate their content expertise.
   i. Teachers organize curriculum to facilitate student understanding of the subject matter.
   ii. Teachers understand, actively participate, and adapt instruction to address common misunderstandings and preconceptions.
   iii. Teachers promote literacy and the academic language within the discipline and make discipline-specific language accessible to all learners.

c. Teachers demonstrate content-specific pedagogy that meets the needs of diverse learners, utilizing engaging instructional materials to connect prior content knowledge to new learning.
   i. Teachers teach both the key content knowledge and the key discipline skills of the discipline.
   ii. Teachers make appropriate and authentic connections across disciplines, subjects, and students’ real-world experiences.

4) Standard 4: Learning Environment. Teachers interact with students in respectful ways at all times, maintaining a physically and emotionally safe, supportive learning environment that is characterized by efficient and effective routines, clear expectations for student behavior, and organization that maximizes student learning.
   a. Teachers create a mutually respectful, collaborative, and safe community of learners by using knowledge of students’ development and backgrounds.
      i. Teachers embrace students’ backgrounds and experiences as an asset in their learning environment.
      ii. Teachers maintain and facilitate respectful, supportive, positive, and productive interactions with and among students.
      iii. Teachers establish and sustain learning environments that are developmentally appropriate and respond to students’ needs, strengths, and personal experiences.
b. Teachers organize their classrooms in a safe and accessible manner that maximizes learning.
   i. Teachers arrange the physical environment to maximize student learning and to ensure that all students have access to resources.
   ii. Teachers create a physical classroom set-up that is flexible and accommodates the different learning needs of students.

c. Teachers establish and communicate consistent routines for effective classroom management, including clear expectations for student behavior.
   i. Teachers implement behavior management systems to maintain an environment where all students can learn effectively.
   ii. Teachers maintain a strong culture of individual and group accountability for class expectations.
   iii. Teachers cultivate student ownership in developing classroom culture and norms.

d. Teachers lead and maintain classrooms where students are actively engaged in learning as indicated by their level of motivation and on-task behavior.
   i. Teachers maintain a culture that is based on high expectations for student performance and encourages students to be self-motivated, taking responsibility for their own learning.
   ii. Teachers maximize instructional time, including managing transitions.
   iii. Teachers manage and facilitate groupings in order to maximize student collaboration, participation, and achievement.
   iv. Teachers communicate regularly, clearly, and appropriately with parents and families about student progress, providing detailed and constructive feedback and partnering with families in furthers their students’ achievement goals.

5) Standard 5: Data-Driven Practice. Teachers use formal and informal methods to assess student growth aligned to instructional goals and course objectives and regularly review and analyze multiple sources of data to measure student progress and adjust instructional strategies and content delivery as needed.
   a. Teachers implement both formal and informal methods of measuring student progress.
      i. Teachers gauge student progress and ensure student mastery of content knowledge and skills by providing assessments aligned to instructional objectives and outcomes that are accurate measures of student learning.
      ii. Teachers vary methods of assessing learning to accommodate students’ learning needs, linguistic differences, and/or varying levels of background knowledge.
   b. Teachers set individual and group learning goals for students by using preliminary data and communicate these goals with students and families to ensure mutual understanding of expectations.
i. Teachers develop lesson plans and set academic as well as social-emotional goals for each student in response to previous outcomes from formal and informal assessments.

ii. Teachers involve all students in self-assessment, goal setting, and monitoring progress.

iii. Teachers communicate with students and families regularly about the importance of collecting data and monitoring progress of student outcomes, sharing timely and comprehensive feedback so they understand students’ goals and progress.

c. Teachers regularly collect, review, and analyze data to monitor student progress.
   i. Teachers analyze and review data in a timely, thorough, accurate, and appropriate manner, both individually and with colleagues, to monitor student learning.
   ii. Teachers combine results from different measures to develop a holistic picture of students’ strength and learning needs.

d. Teachers utilize the data they collect and analyze to inform their instructional strategies and adjust short- and long-term plans accordingly.
   i. Teachers design instruction, change strategies, and differentiate their learning practices to improve student learning based on assessment outcomes.
   ii. Teachers regularly compare their curriculum scope and sequence with student data to ensure they are on track and make adjustments as needed.

6) Standard 6: Professional Practices and Responsibilities. Teachers consistently hold themselves to a high standard for individual development, pursue leadership opportunities, collaborate with other educational professionals, communicate regularly with stakeholders, maintain professional relationships, comply with all campus and school district policies, and conduct themselves ethically and with integrity.

   a. Teachers reflect on their teaching practice to improve their instructional effectiveness and engage in continuous professional learning to gain knowledge and skills and refine professional judgment.
      i. Teachers reflect on their strengths and professional learning needs, using this information to develop action plans for improvement.
      ii. Teachers establish and strive to achieve professional goals to strengthen their instructional effectiveness and better meet students’ needs.
      iii. Teachers engage in relevant, targeted professional learning opportunities that align with their professional growth goals and their students’ academic and social-emotional needs.

   b. Teachers collaborate with their colleagues, are self-aware in their interpersonal interactions, and are open to constructive feedback from peers and administrators.
      i. Teachers seek out feedback from supervisors, coaches, and peers and take advantage of opportunities for job-embedded professional development.
ii. Teachers actively participate in professional learning communities organized to improve instructional practices and student learning.

c. Teachers seek out opportunities to lead students, other educators, and community members within and beyond their classrooms.
   i. Teachers clearly communicate the mission, vision, and goals of the school to students, colleagues, parents and families, and other community members.
   ii. Teachers seek to lead other adults on campus through professional learning communities, grade- or subject-level team leadership, committee membership, or other opportunities.

d. Teachers model ethical and respectful behavior and demonstrate integrity in all situations.
   i. Teachers adhere to the educators’ code of ethics in §247.2 of this title (relating to Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators), including following policies and procedures at their specific school placement(s).
   ii. Teachers communicate consistently, clearly, and respectfully with all members of the campus community, including students, parents and families, colleagues, administrators, and staff.
   iii. Teachers serve as advocates for their students, focusing attention on students’ needs and concerns and maintaining thorough and accurate student records.