

WCE Categories of Professional Dispositions

1. Commitment to Personal and Professional Qualities

- Integrity (honesty, ethics and character)
- Caring
- Tolerance
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Creativity and innovation
- Consideration and thoughtfulness
- Language appropriate to context and audience
- Attendance, punctuality and responsiveness
- Professional attire and appearance

2. Commitment as a Learner

- Engages actively in class
- Completes assignments to the best of one's ability
- Takes responsibility for one's learning by showing initiative in responding to assignments, projects and class activities both as a learner and a teacher
- Accepts feedback readily and is receptive to new ideas
- Gives thoughtful consideration to different viewpoints
- Contributes ideas and demonstrates initiative when working in groups and teams, comes to classes and meetings prepared
- Collaborates with peers, colleagues and other teachers to create a professional learning community

3. Commitment as an Educator to the Success of all Students

- Reflects about one's own cultural identity and experiences
- Examines and seeks to overcome biases and stereotypes
- Shows respect for and sensitivity to students' varied perspectives and cultures
- Takes responsibility for all students' learning and holds high expectations for all students
- Establishes an environment that is inviting, respectful, supportive and inclusive
- Works collaboratively with the families and significant adults in the lives of their students
- Chooses methods and materials that engage students to raise academic achievement of all learners and strives to eliminate achievement gaps

4. Commitment to Professional Leadership¹

- Involves families and the community in the classroom and the school
- Participates in initiatives to improve public education, including professional associations, community service, boards, panels, agencies or special projects
- Advocates for positive change in policies and practices affecting student learning and lives
- Seeks solutions to overcome social, political, cultural, economic, physical and cognitive barriers that may prevent effective family and community involvement in the education of their students

¹ Candidates will show evidence of some aspects of Category 4 during our preparation programs. The intent is to show the continuum of commitment and professional behaviors that will grow beyond our programs. This category will be assessed by candidates' demonstrating their connections across the classroom, school, and community and society.

WCE Professional Dispositions for Teacher Candidates

Over the last several years, state and national organizations have developed new expectations of teachers. Embedded in the North Carolina and InTASC standards for teachers (and many of the curricular recommendations from professional associations) are assumptions that teachers are both caring and competent. From these new expectations the Watson College of Education (WCE) developed dispositional¹ expectations for teachers with four main categories to guide teacher candidate development. These categories promote a new, broader understanding of teacher professionalism. From personal and professional qualities, commitment as a learner, to success for all learners to teacher leadership, professionalism is defined by commitment, responsibility, caring and action on behalf of all students. The WCE dispositions incorporate the professional standards as described in the Code of Ethics for North Carolina Educators and the Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for North Carolina Educators. Students should refer to these Standards for a more detailed description.

Through coursework and field experiences, the teacher candidates in WCE have opportunities to develop the following dispositions (e.g. reflects about one's own cultural identity and experiences, takes responsibility for all students' learning).

Program Dispositions serve three purposes:

- 1) inform candidates of dispositional expectations
- 2) help students identify areas for further development, and
- 3) assist faculty in candidate assessment

Professional Dispositions: Statement of Responsibility

My signature below verifies that I have read the Watson College of Education Professional Dispositions and recognize the importance of meeting these expectations. My performance on these dispositions must meet or exceed program expectations. I understand that failure to demonstrate appropriate dispositions will result in an intervention plan and/or result in dismissal from the Watson College of Education.

Candidate's Printed Name _____

Candidate's Signature _____

Date: _____

¹NCATE's definition of dispositions: "Professional attitudes, values, and beliefs demonstrated through both verbal and non-verbal behaviors as educators interact with students, families, colleagues, and communities. These positive behaviors support student learning and development."