Welcome to the School of Education and Counseling at Wayne State College! Although you are responsible for meeting the benchmarks listed below, our faculty and staff look forward to working with you on your journey towards teacher certification. Please don’t hesitate to seek assistance when you have questions. Students wishing to advance in educator preparation must maintain a professional attitude, demonstrate instructional and curriculum development skills, and possess the same high moral and personal standards as required of certified teachers by the laws of the State of Nebraska. Students must also be free from physical, emotional, and mental impairments such as those that would cause revocation of a teaching certificate by the State Board of Education. Violation of college and/or Board of Trustees policies or regulations can be sufficient cause for denial of advancement in the educator preparation program. Questions about the Benchmarks? Contact the WSC Field Experience Office (Brandenburg Education building, 2nd floor) or by phone at 402-375-7391.

### Initial Prerequisites – must be completed during EDU 250 or during first semester at WSC (if a transfer student)

- myEportfolio: All education majors must purchase myEportfolio (Chalk and Wire subscription), which is an electronic portfolio used for submitting homework and assessing progress. myEportfolio can also be used for building a personal portfolio for future employment. Subscriptions are purchased through the bookstore located in the Student Center.
- Introductory Video: Students are required to view the Introductory Video describing the educator preparation process, required benchmarks, and the expectations for professional conduct when interacting with PK-12 students. After viewing, students must digitally sign a Signature Sheet (located in myEportfolio) indicating they understand the requirements.
- Application to Educator Preparation located in myEportfolio and completed/submitted electronically. A digital copy will be sent by the C/W system to the Field Experience Office.
- Background Check: All education majors must complete an initial background screening prior to being placed for any field experiences. Information (including the name of the company that completes the screening and fee paid by the student) is provided in myEportfolio.

### Level One: Preparing for Teacher Candidacy – Benchmarks for All Endorsements

#### Required Basic Knowledge Test (Core Academic Skills for Educators known as the “Core” test):
- Must pass all three sections of the Core test. Required minimum scores are: Reading 156; Math 150; and Writing 162. Visit [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org) for information about the test. Study guides are on reserve in Conn Library.

#### Required General Studies courses (must earn a “C” or higher in the following two classes):
- CNA 100 Principles of Human Communication
- ENG 102 Composition Skills

#### Required Professional Education courses (NOTE: must earn a “C” or higher in all EDU or SPD prefix classes):
- EDU 150 Introduction to Professional Education
- EDU 250 Human Development and Cognition (includes field experience component)
- EDU 275 PK-12 Instructional Design (includes field experience component)

**Note:** Some of the above courses may be accepted as transfer credit from other institutions – see your advisor for assistance.

#### Training in Human Relations:
- Completion of EDU 275 PK-12 Instructional Design OR Completion of EDU 457 Human Relations in a Pluralistic Society (if transferring in an equivalent EDU 275 course from another institution)

#### Performance Benchmarks:
- Must have a 2.5 (or higher) cumulative GPA
- Evidence of professionalism and potential for teaching verified by successful progress on the Educator Growth Portfolio (EGP)

#### Recommendation and Approval:
- Must receive a recommendation to advance. Each student’s EGP will be reviewed by a faculty committee for evidence of satisfactory progress in knowledge, skills, and dispositions.
- Please refer to the attached Recommendation Process handout for an explanation of the recommendation options – some students may not be recommended for candidacy.
- Must receive approval from the Professional Progress Committee (PPC) to advance to candidate status

Students who meet all Level One benchmarks and receive approval for Candidacy will be allowed to take Level 300 or 400 EDU and SPD classes.
### Level Two: Preparing for Clinical Practice – All Endorsements

Candidates must complete all content courses required (see catalog) PLUS the following required Professional Education courses in their chosen endorsement area(s).  
(NOTE: all candidates must earn a “C” or higher in all EDU or SPD prefix classes.)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Education Generalist</th>
<th>Early Childhood Inclusive</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- EDU 332 Development of Language Arts Elementary/Middle School</td>
<td>- SPD 160 Introduction to Special Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>- EDU 341 Intermediate Reading or EDU 340 Early Reading (if K-6 subject only)</td>
<td>- SPD 435 Social, Emotional Development, Behavior Intervention, and Elementary Prosocial Classroom Management</td>
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<td>- EDU 430 Literacy Assessment</td>
<td>- MAT 215 Math for Elementary School Teachers</td>
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<td>- FCS 412 Guiding the Young Child (includes field experience component)</td>
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<td>- CNA 451 Speech Pathology</td>
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<th>Middle Level Education</th>
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<tr>
<td>- SPD 302 Inclusive Practices for General and Special Educators</td>
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<tr>
<td>- SPD 435 or 436 Social &amp; Emotional Development, Behavior Intervention, and Prosocial Classroom Management for either Elementary or Secondary level</td>
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<tr>
<td>- EDU 310 Reading, Writing, and Assessment for Content Area</td>
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<td>- EDU 350 The Middle Level Teacher</td>
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<td>- EDU 409 Content Area Methods and Assessment</td>
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<td>- EDU 414 Content Area Clinical Experience</td>
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<tr>
<th>PK-12 Education (Art, Music or Health/PE)</th>
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<tr>
<td>- SPD 302 Inclusive Practices for General and Special Educators</td>
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<tr>
<td>- SPD 435 or 436 Social &amp; Emotional Development, Behavior Intervention, and Prosocial Classroom Management for either Elementary or Secondary level</td>
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<tr>
<td>- EDU 310 Reading, Writing, and Assessment in Content Areas</td>
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| - EDU 409 Content Area Methods and Assessment for each subject/discipline area  
(Music Education majors take MUS 308, 309 and 415) |
| - EDU 414 Content Area Clinical Experience (taken concurrently with EDU 409)  
Note: Music Education majors take MUS 411 (concurrently with MUS 415) and MUS 412 (concurrently with either MUS 308 or 309). |

**Plus (for all endorsements)...**

- **Background Check:** All candidates must complete a second background check within 90 days prior to clinical practice. Information (vendor and fee paid by candidate) is posted in myEportfolio.

- **Performance Benchmarks:** All required coursework must be completed prior to clinical practice with at least a 2.75 GPA in each of these three categories: cumulative, content area, and professional education.  

- **Recommendation Benchmarks:** Successful completion of all field and clinical experience requirements and positive recommendations from all cooperating teachers.  

  - Evidence of readiness for teaching as determined by faculty following a review of candidate’s EGP  
  - Approval of the Professional Progress Committee for placement for clinical practice  

- **Required Paperwork:** The Application for Clinical Practice is submitted to the Field Experience office one semester prior to clinical practice (form and instructions are available in Chalk & Wire)

**Candidates who successfully complete all Level Two benchmarks and receive PPC approval will be placed for Clinical Practice.**

### Level Three: Clinical Practice – All Endorsements

- Evidence of positive impact on PK-12 student learning demonstrated by successful completion of the Reflection of Instructional Choices (RIC) during clinical practice

- Successful completion of clinical practice evidenced by satisfactory evaluations from cooperating teacher(s) and college supervisor(s), and a grade of “S” from Academic Coordinator

**Successful completion of any/all general requirements for Wayne State College graduation**

**Successful completion of all Level Three benchmarks will result in recommendation for teacher licensure (certification.)**
Recommendation Process for Advancement in Educator Preparation

To be approved for advancement from one level to the next in educator preparation, students must successfully complete all benchmarks, be recommended for advancement by faculty, and be approved by the Professional Progress Committee. Here is the process for advancement:

**From Level One to Level Two:**
For each student enrolled in EDU 275 (considered the capstone class at Level One), faculty in coordination with the Field Experience Office will review evidence and artifacts related to the required benchmarks for Level One. Based on that evidence, one of the following numerical ratings will be forwarded to the Professional Progress Committee (PPC) for consideration:

1. This student exhibits satisfactory progress on all Level One benchmarks and is ready to advance to Level Two.
   
   OR
   
2. This student should advance conditionally* to Level Two for one semester, based on the following concerns: (concerns will be listed)
   
   OR
   
3. This student does not exhibit qualities necessary to remain in educator preparation based on the following evidence: (evidence will be provided) The committee is recommending removal from educator preparation.

*During the semester of conditional approval, the student is required to meet with a designated faculty member a minimum of three times to develop and implement a Plan for Improvement. At the conclusion of the semester, progress on the Plan for Improvement will be reviewed, and a report and recommendation will be made to the PPC regarding readiness to remain in educator preparation. Based on the review, some students will be required to complete a second conditional semester at Level Two; others will continue at Level Two without conditions due to satisfactory progress; and still others will be recommended for removal from educator preparation. Students will not be allowed more than two conditional semesters. Students who are not admitted to educator preparation will be referred to the Counseling Center for advisement on other career options.

**From Level Two to Level Three:**
Faculty in coordination with the Field Experience Office will review evidence and artifacts related to the required benchmarks for Level Two, and based on that evidence will send one of the following recommendations to the PPC for consideration:

1. This candidate exhibits appropriate knowledge, skills, and dispositions to be placed for clinical practice.

2. This candidate has NOT exhibited adequate progress on the knowledge, skills, and dispositions required of a professional educator and should NOT be advanced to clinical practice at this time based on the following evidence: (evidence provided) The committee recommends the following remediation steps: (steps provided)

3. This candidate has NOT exhibited adequate progress on the knowledge, skills, and dispositions required of a professional educator, based on the following evidence: (evidence provided) The committee recommends removal from educator preparation.

**From Level Three to Teacher Licensure:**
Wayne State’s certification officer will review evidence and artifacts related to each of the required benchmarks for Level Three and make a recommendation to the Nebraska Department of Education (or any other state) for teacher licensure/certification. Most states (including Nebraska) require a passing score on a content exam prior to being issued a teaching license. For information about the content exams required in Nebraska or other states, please visit [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis).