



Benchmarks for Successful Advancement in Educator Preparation

Effective 7-1-2021

Welcome to the School of Education and Behavioral Sciences 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 certification as a teacher. Please don't hesitate to seek assistance when you have questions. To be approved for advancement from one level to the next in educator preparation, students must successfully complete all benchmarks and be approved by the Professional Progress Committee (PPC). Failure to meet any of the below benchmarks or any violation of college and/or Board of Trustees policies or regulations can be sufficient cause for denial of advancement in the educator preparation program. Contact the Education and Behavioral Sciences Services Office (EBSS) (Benthack Hall, 1st floor) or by phone at 402-375-7391 if you have questions. More information can be found on our [Educator Preparation](#) webpage.

In order to advance through **all levels**, students must:

- maintain a professional attitude (professional dispositions), demonstrate instructional and curriculum development skills, and possess the same high moral and personal standards as required of certified teachers in the laws of the State of Nebraska.
- be free from emotional and mental impairments such as those that would cause revocation of a teaching certificate by the State Board of Education.

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

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

- Anthology Portfolio:** All education majors must purchase *Anthology Portfolio* (formerly called Chalk and Wire), which is an electronic portfolio used for submitting homework and assessing progress. *Anthology Portfolio* can also be used for building a personal portfolio for future employment. Subscriptions are purchased through the [bookstore](#) located in the Student Center. If you are a WIT transfer student, contact Dr. Mark Baron (mabaron1@wsc.edu or 402-375-7379) for the link to gain access to the Benchmarks Portfolio.
- Introductory Video and State Authorization Reciprocity Act (SARA):** 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. Students must also review the SARA information at the end of this document and/or on the website. After viewing, students **must** digitally sign a Signature Sheet (*located in Anthology Portfolio*) indicating they understand the requirements/information.
- Application to Educator Preparation** located in *Anthology Portfolio* and completed/submitted electronically. A digital copy will be sent by the Anthology 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 *Anthology Portfolio*.
- NE Teach Account:** Go to <https://teach.education.ne.gov/#/> and register for a free NE Teach Account. This is the Educator Application and Certification hub where you will apply for certification through the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). It is important to do this prior to having any praxis scores sent to allow for a smooth application process. Be sure to register using a personal email that you will continue to use post-graduation.

Required Basic Knowledge Test (Core Academic Skills for Educators known as the “Praxis I Core” test):

- Must pass all three sections of the Praxis I Core test. Required minimum scores are: Reading 156; Math 150; and Writing 162. Visit <http://www.ets.org/praxis/ne/requirements/> for information about the test. Study guides and practice tests can be found on the [WSC PrepSTEP site](#). **When registering, be sure to request your scores be sent to WSC and to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE).**

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 rating to advance. Each student's EGP will be reviewed by the Candidate Review Committee (CRC) (see definition at end of this document) for evidence of satisfactory progress in knowledge, skills, and dispositions.
- Must receive approval from the Professional Progress Committee (PPC) to advance to candidate status.

Recommendation Process From Level One to Level Two:

For each student enrolled in EDU 250 and EDU 275 (considered the capstone class at Level One), the CRC in coordination with the EBSS 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 assigned to the potential candidate and will be forwarded to the Professional Progress Committee (PPC) for consideration:

Rating is #1: Students who are rated as #1 by the CRC and have met all Level 1 Benchmarks as verified by the EBSS Office will automatically advance to Level 2.

Rating is #2: Students who are rated as #2 by the CRC are reviewed by the PPC. The decision regarding advancement to Level 2 is based on the concerns from the CRC and/or faculty. Some students may be allowed to advance conditionally for one semester. The PPC will list the concerns for conditional approval.* When the student has successfully addressed the concerns for conditional approval, they will be advanced to Level 2.

Rating is #3: Students who are rated as #3 by the CRC do not exhibit qualities necessary to remain in educator preparation based on existing evidence which will be provided to the PPC. The PPC reviews the #3 ratings from the CRC to determine if a recommendation for removal from the program should be made to the Dean.

*During this semester of conditional approval, the student may be on an Improvement Plan as recommended by the PPC. In this case, the student will be required to meet with a PPC Improvement Plan Team a minimum of two times to review improvement. At the conclusion of the semester, progress on the Improvement Plan 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 2; others will continue at Level 2 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 explore other career options.

Students who meet all Level One benchmarks and receive PPC 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)

Special Education Generalist

- EDU 216 Children's Literature
- EDU 332 Development of Language Arts Elementary/Middle School
- EDU 341 Intermediate Reading or EDU 340 Early Reading (if K-6 subject only)
- EDU 430 Literacy Assessment
- MAT 215 Math for Elementary School Teachers II
- CNA 451 Speech Pathology

Middle Level Education

- SPD 302 Inclusion and Co-Teaching in General Education
- SPD 435 or 436 Classroom Management through Social Emotional Learning K-6 or 7-12
- EDU 310 Reading, Writing, and Assessment for Content Area
- EDU 350 The Middle Level Teacher
- EDU 409 Content Area Methods and Assessment
- EDU 414 Content Area Practicum Experience

PK-12 Education (Art, Music or Health/PE)

- SPD 302 Inclusion and Co-Teaching in General Education
- SPD 435 or 436 Classroom Management through Social Emotional Learning K-6 or 7-12
- EDU 310 Reading, Writing, and Assessment in Content Areas
- 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 Practicum 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).

Early Childhood Inclusive Education

- SPD 160 Introduction to Special Education
- SPD 435 Classroom Management through Social Emotional Learning K-6
- FCS 412 Guiding the Young Child (includes field experience component)
- EDU 435 Practicum Experience II (includes field experience component)

Elementary Education

- SPD 302 Inclusion and Co-Teaching in General Education
- SPD 435 Classroom Management through Social Emotional Learning K-6
- EDU 302 Curriculum, Standards, and Assessment in Elementary Schools
- EDU 335 Practicum Experience I (includes field experience component)
- EDU 435 Practicum Experience II (includes field experience component)

Secondary Education

- SPD 302 Inclusion and Co-Teaching in General Education
- SPD 436 Classroom Management through Social Emotional Learning 7-12
- EDU 310 Reading, Writing, and Assessment in Content Areas(or ENG 444 for Secondary English majors)
- EDU 409 Content Area Methods and Assessment for each subject/discipline area (Music Education majors take MUS 308 and 309)
- EDU 414 Content Area Practicum Experience (taken concurrently with EDU 409) Note: Music Education majors take MUS 412 (concurrently with either MUS 308 or 309).

Plus (for all endorsements)...

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.
- Evidence of readiness for clinical practice verified by successful progress on the Educator Growth Portfolio (EGP).

Recommendation Benchmarks:

- Successful completion of all field and practicum 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 PPC for clinical practice placement.

Required Paperwork:

- Application for Clinical Practice is submitted to the EBSS office one semester prior to clinical practice (form and instructions are available in *Anthology Portfolio*).

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 *Anthology Portfolio*. This is not to be completed until you are notified via email by the EBSS office.

Recommendation Process From Level Two to Level Three:

The PPC, in coordination with the EBSS Office, will review student records to verify completion of all required coursework and benchmarks for Level 2, and based on that evidence either advance or not advance students to Level 3.

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 (please refer to *General and Graduate Catalog*).

Recommendation Process From Level Three to Teacher Licensure:

Wayne State College education faculty and certification officer will review student 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.

Successful completion of all Level Three benchmarks will result in recommendation for teacher licensure (certification.)