



## **Benchmarks for Successful Advancement in Educator Preparation For MSE Candidates Seeking Initial Certification as a Special Education Generalist Effective 7-1-2025**

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 (EBSS) Office (Benthack Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> floor) or by phone at 402-375-7391 if you have questions. More information can be found on our [Educator Preparation](#) webpage at [www.wsc.edu/educational-foundations-leadership-department/education-benchmarks](http://www.wsc.edu/educational-foundations-leadership-department/education-benchmarks).

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 (must be completed within the first 15 credit hours of the MSE program)**

#### **Initial Prerequisites--must be completed during the first term of enrollment in the MSE program**

- Anthology Portfolio:** All education majors will receive a subscription to *Anthology Portfolio* upon enrollment in EDU 525.
- Application to Educator Preparation** located in *Anthology Portfolio* and completed/submitted electronically. Students **must** digitally sign indicating they understand both the benchmark requirements presented to them in EDU 525 and have reviewed all SARA information at [www.wsc.edu/state-authorization-and-licensure](http://www.wsc.edu/state-authorization-and-licensure).
- Background Check:** All education majors must complete an initial background screening prior to admission and being placed for any field experiences. Information (including the name of the company to use for completing the screening and the fee paid by the student) is provided in the Benchmarks Portfolio in *Anthology*.

#### **Attend Required Seminar & Orientation (NOTE: must earn a "S")**

- EDU 525 Preparing for Level 2: Teacher Candidacy
- EDU 621 Education Program Orientation

#### **Required Professional Education courses (NOTE: must earn a "C" or higher in all coursework):**

- EDU 603 Introduction to Educational Research and Design
- EDU 626 Advanced Educational Psychology
- EDU 627 Current Issues and Trends in Education
- EDU 658 Fundamentals of Curriculum Development PK-16

#### **Performance Benchmarks:**

- Must have a 3.0 (or higher) GPA in all graduate coursework

#### **Recommendation and Approval:**

- Must receive a recommendation rating to advance. Each student will be reviewed by a faculty committee for evidence of satisfactory progress in knowledge, skills, and dispositions, and a recommendation will be forwarded to the Professional Progress Committee (PPC)

### **Recommendation Process from Level One to Level Two:**

The CRC, in coordination with the EBSS Office, will review evidence and artifacts related to the required benchmarks for Level One for each student. 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 #3: Admitted to Program.** CRC identified no concerns. Once the EBSS Office verifies all Benchmarks have been successfully met, the student will be automatically advanced to Level 2.

**Rating is #2: CRC Consultation.** CRC identified minor areas for growth and recommends a one-time meeting with the student to provide guidance and support for success. Once the student meets with the CRC member and the EBSS Office verifies all Benchmarks have been successfully met, the student will be automatically advanced to Level 2.

**Rating is #1: PPC Referral.** CRC identified moderate areas for growth and recommends additional support be provided. PPC reviews to determine if the student should fully advance to Level 2 or be allowed to advance conditionally for one semester with a Growth Plan in place. This plan is designed to help address moderate concerns and provide additional support to grow and thrive. When the student has successfully addressed the concerns for conditional approval, they will be fully advanced to Level 2.

**Rating is #0: Not Recommended for Admission to Program.** Students who are rated as #0 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 #0 ratings from the CRC to determine if a recommendation for removal from the program should be made to the Dean and referred for Career Counseling.

**During the Semester(s) of Conditional Approval.** Students who are conditionally approved to Level 2 will be considered for one of the following:

**Monitor Growth.** The PPC will determine if the student will be monitored for (1) one semester based on Professional Dispositions. At the conclusion of the semester, a recommendation will be made to the PPC regarding the readiness to be removed from monitoring status or be placed on a Growth Plan.

**Growth Plan.** The student will be required to meet with a PPC Growth Plan Coordinator (GPC) a minimum of three times during the semester to review growth. At the conclusion of the semester, a report and recommendation will be made by the GPC to the PPC regarding readiness to remain in educator preparation. Based on the decision of the PPC, some candidates will be required to complete a second semester of the Growth Plan. Students will not be allowed more than two conditional semesters on a Growth Plan. Students who successfully complete the Growth Plan will be moved from conditional status to full admission to Level 2. Students who are not successful with the growth plan will be recommended for removal from educator preparation. Candidates who do not meet the benchmarks in Level 2 will be referred to explore other career options.

**Students who successfully complete all Level One benchmarks and receive PPC approval will be advanced to Candidacy.**

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### **Level Two: Preparing for Clinical Practice**

#### **Attend Required Seminar & Submit Required Paperwork:**

- EDU 545 Preparing for Level 3: Clinical Practice (NOTE: must earn a "S")
- The Application for Clinical Practice is submitted to the EBSS office one semester prior to clinical practice to allow time for placement. The application form and instructions for completion are available in the Benchmarks Portfolio in *Anthology* and is reviewed in EDU 545.
- 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).

#### **Performance Benchmarks:**

- Successful completion of a progress interview upon completion of 15 program credits.
- All required coursework for the MSE must be completed with a 3.0 (or higher) GPA *prior* to clinical practice (see General and Graduate Catalog for a complete listing of required courses).
- All coursework must have a "C" or higher grade.

- Evidence of readiness for clinical practice verified by successful completion of Key Assessments (submitted in each SPD course).

**Recommendation Benchmarks:**

- Successful completion of all practicum requirements and a positive assessment of performance from the cooperating teacher(s).
- Evidence of professionalism and potential for teaching verified by successful progress on the Key Assessments in the Educator Growth Portfolio (EGP).
- Approval of the Professional Progress Committee (PPC) for placement for clinical practice.

***Recommendation Process from Level Two to Level Three:***

The EBSS Office will review student records to verify completion of all required coursework and benchmarks for Level 2 and present a list of candidates who are eligible to advance to Level 3 to the PPC. Based on the evidence, the PPC will either advance or not advance candidates to Level 3.

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

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**Level Three: Clinical Practice**

- Evidence of positive impact on K-12 student learning demonstrated by successful completion of the EGP.
- Satisfactory completion of clinical practice as determined by clinical practice faculty, cooperating teacher(s) and college supervisor(s), and a grade of "S" from Academic Coordinator.
- Successful completion of 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.

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