

Teacher Education Dispositions

Assessment Categories and Examples

The following categories of dispositions will be assessed. Examples of behaviors that might be consistent with positive and negative dispositions are given. This list is meant to be illustrative of possible dispositions, but is neither intended to be exhaustive nor prescriptive.

Legal/Ethical Conduct

Positive Examples:

- Knows and adheres to Pennsylvania Professional Code of Ethics, copyright and privacy laws
- Adheres to Professional Codes of Ethics of Pennsylvania, Pitt-Greensburg and specific Professional Organization(s) of the program
- Is honest
- Demonstrates ethical behaviors

Negative Examples:

- Engages in illegal or unethical conduct involving minor children or which would be grounds for dismissal from a teaching position
- Fails to maintain privacy and confidentiality of student information
- Violates the University Code of Student Conduct

Attendance/Punctuality

Positive Examples:

- Meets professional expectations through punctuality and preparation
- Calls/Emails *in advance* when absent or running late

Negative Examples:

- Is frequently late or absent except when excused in advance
- Gives excuses rather than taking responsibility for attendance

Professional Appearance and Demeanor

Positive Examples:

- Meets professional expectations through appropriate dress
- Maintains professional appearance
- Demonstrates enjoyment in the content of the discipline
- Is personable
- Is energetic
- Is confident

Negative Examples:

- Fails to act or dress according to the standards of the school where the candidate is placed
- Fails to maintain composure in the classroom

Reliability/Dependability

Positive Examples:

- Demonstrates the value of preparation through the planning of meaningful lessons/units
- Is responsible
- Demonstrates dedication

Negative Examples:

- Frequently fails to complete assignments, duties, or tasks on time
- Gives excuses rather than taking responsibility for actions

Interactions with Others

Positive Examples:

- Is respectful during interactions with school students, educational personnel & families
- Works collaboratively with others (colleagues, supervisors, cooperating teachers)
- Meets professional expectations through language and interpersonal skills
- Demonstrates a belief in classroom learning communities in which collaborative decision-making, inquiry, and individual responsibility to the group are valued

Negative Examples:

- Fails to interact in a positive and professional manner with students, peers, teachers, university personnel, and others

Fairness/Lack of Bias

Positive Examples:

- Treats individuals equitably
- Collaborates with all appropriate individuals in planning for the success of students with exceptional needs
- Exhibits an understanding & acceptance of diversity

Negative Examples:

- Shows overt bias, prejudice, or lack of fairness toward certain students or groups of people

Safety/Responsible Conduct

Positive Examples:

- Cares for the students' well being
- Displays positive relationships with children

Negative Examples:

- Acts in a dangerous or irresponsible manner that might put students at risk

Flexibility/Adaptability/Openness to Feedback

Positive Examples:

- Seeks out, reflects, and acts upon feedback from students, cooperating teacher, supervisor, and peers
- Is flexible

Negative Examples:

- Is unable to adapt teaching to changing classroom circumstances
- Reacts defensively or antagonistically to feedback about performance

Communicative Effectiveness

Positive Examples:

- Displays an appropriate sense of humor
- Writes & speaks clearly
- Is professional during educational interactions
- Is easily understood
- Conveys an appropriate tone
- Listens carefully and actively
- Communicates clearly and appropriately with students, families, supervisor, cooperating teacher and other school personnel
- Follows appropriate channels of communication

Negative Examples:

- Makes frequent errors in oral and/or written communications with students, peers, teachers, university personnel, and others

Commitment to Student Learning

Positive Examples:

- Demonstrates a belief that all students (including students with disabilities/linguistic/cultural diversity) can learn at high levels
- Abides by FERPA (Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
- Presents information in a positive manner

Negative Examples:

- Makes negative comments about students' abilities to learn
- Unable to adapt instruction to meet varying needs and abilities

Commitment to Improving Teaching Performance

Positive Examples:

- Self-regulates & modifies professional behavior based upon feedback
- Seeks & accepts critical feedback from peers, supervisors, faculty, students & students' families

Negative Examples:

- Makes no effort to improve instructional practices and teaching activities

Commitment to Profession

Positive Examples:

- Demonstrates enjoyment of the profession of educator
- Demonstrates a commitment to ongoing professional development through use of literature and growth opportunities
- Is aware of & involved with professional organizations, publications & activities
- Exhibits curiosity about the profession
- Cares for the profession

Negative Examples:

- Exhibits poor attitude toward the discipline and/or teaching profession

1=DOES NOT MEET PROFICIENCY	Candidate has not displayed acceptable dispositions OR has not demonstrated an adequate level of professional behaviors as defined by the program OR has displayed behaviors counter to those accepted as professional dispositions.
2=PARTIALLY PROFICIENT	Candidate displays acceptable dispositions as defined by the program in an inconsistent fashion OR is developing the dispositions in a positive fashion. More attention and focus is required of this Candidate.
3=PROFICIENT	Candidate consistently and effectively displays appropriate dispositions as defined by the program.
4=EXEMPLARY	Candidate consistently and effectively displays appropriate dispositions as defined by the program at a level expected of practicing professional educators.

Adapted from: The Disposition Rubrics/Expectations of Purdue University and Millersville University of PA