

Assessment Cycle

Academic Year 2016 – 2017

Program: 320 Secondary Education with concentrations in Biology, Business, English, Mathematics and Social Studies

College: Education and Human Development

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Northwestern Mission. Northwestern State University is a responsive, student-oriented institution that is committed to the creation, dissemination, and acquisition of knowledge through teaching, research, and service. The University maintains as its highest priority excellence in teaching in graduate and undergraduate programs. *Northwestern State University prepares its students to become productive members of society and promotes economic development and improvements in the quality of life of the citizens in its region.*

Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development Mission (draft). The Gallaspy Family College of Education and Human Development is a committed and diverse community of scholars, educators, students, and future leaders working collaboratively to acquire, create, and disseminate knowledge through transformational, high-impact experiential learning practices, research, and service. The College produces graduates with the capabilities and confidence to be productive members of society equipped with the skill sets necessary to promote economic and social development thereby improving the overall quality of life in the region. The College offers a wide variety of exemplary undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare candidates for career success across the spectrum of professional roles and settings. These programs include teacher education, leadership, and counseling; health and human performance; psychology and addiction studies; social work; and military science. Candidates are taught to become adaptive critical thinkers and problem solvers in diverse scenarios capable of leveraging new technologies to enrich lifelong learning. As caring, competent, reflective practitioners, our graduates become positive role models in their communities and leaders in the nation's military.

Department of Teaching, Leadership, and Counseling Mission. The Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development offers exemplary programs that prepare candidates for career success in a variety of professional roles and settings. As caring, competent, reflective practitioners, our graduates become positive models in their communities and organizations. This mission is fulfilled through academic programs based on theory, research, and best practice. Further, all graduates learn to value and work with diverse populations and to incorporate technologies that enrich learning and professional endeavors.

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Secondary Education Mission: The teacher preparation programs at Northwestern State University prepares critically reflective and responsive teachers who continue to learn across their careers. Several priorities distinguish our approach to teacher education including strong subject matter emphasis, intensive clinical field experiences, and commitment to reflective practice. These candidates are well prepared in their content areas and with the most recent research-based knowledge of instruction and curriculum. Further, candidates learn to value and work with diverse populations and to incorporate technologies that enrich learning and professional endeavors. Our goal for all is that they will become exceptional classroom teachers and take on leadership roles within school across Louisiana.

Methodology: The assessment process for the program is as follows:

- (1) Data from assessments provide results on candidate knowledge, skills, and dispositions as appropriate for professional education programs.
- (2) Annually, program faculty and stakeholders review data to make data-driven, curricular decisions.

Student Learning Outcome (SLO) 1:

Departmental Student Learning Goal	Program Student Learning Outcome
Demonstrate discipline-specific content knowledge (SPA #1)	Candidates demonstrate depth and breadth of subject matter content knowledge in the subjects they teach.

Measure 1.1. (Direct – Knowledge, Skills)

SLO 1 is assessed through State Licensure Tests published by ETS. Licensure in the state of Louisiana requires the successful passing of PRAXIS II exams. Student must pass before beginning student teaching semester.

Finding: Since NSU requires students to submit passing test scores to begin student teaching, the pass rate of completers is 100%. In 2016-2017, we used a new tool available through the Educational Testing Service (ETS) where we can use student reported attendance at a university to aggregate data (mean, median, standard deviation, average performance range) for the institution, state and nation. NSU examined first time pass rates and discovered significant areas to focus attention. From 2015-2016 analysis, we found that students were struggling in mathematics and social studies tests. This was confirmed in 2016-2017 with breakdown by first time pass rates.

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Analysis: In Biology (test 5235), there were 17 examinees with a median of 148; mean of 146. The cut score is 150. The first time pass rate at NSU was 0% (n=6). In Business (test 5105), there were 5 examinees with a median of 162; mean of 159. The cut score is 154. The first time pass rate was not provided since there were only 3 test takers (must have a minimum of 5 to report). In English (test 5039), there were 18 examinees with a median of 165; mean of 163. The cut score is 160. The first time pass rate at NSU was not provided (n=4). In mathematics (test 5161), the number of examinees was 20 with a median of 140; mean of 139.8. The cut score is 135. The first time pass rate was 16% (n=6). In Social Studies, there were 37 examinees with a median of 147; mean of 146.2. The cut score is 160. The first time pass rate is 8%.

Action - Decision or Recommendation: Further analysis will be sought between content faculty and education faculty to assist students in preparing for required licensure tests. It is important to note that NSU is dependent on student self-reporting that they are enrolled at NSU. No check is made to confirm their enrollment at NSU.

It is also important to note that it cannot be determined whether the examinee is an undergraduate or alternative certification candidate.

Student Learning Outcome (SLO) 2:

Departmental Student Learning Goal	Program Student Learning Outcome
Apply discipline-specific content knowledge in professional practice (SPA #2)	Completers demonstrate depth and breadth of subject matter content & knowledge in the subjects they teach.

Measure: 2.1. (Direct – Knowledge, Skills)

SLO 2 is assessed through calculation of GPA of identified content courses. Students are expected to maintain a 2.5 GPA.

Finding: All completers exceeded the threshold of a 2.5 gpa for identified content courses. In ELA, the mean gpa of content courses was 3.61; mathematics and social studies have a mean gpa of 4.0. There was only one completer in mathematics and one completer in social studies.

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Analysis: The ELA grade point average confirms that completers have a solid grasp of the content within their field. Limited data will not allow any analysis in mathematics and social studies.

Action - Decision or Recommendation: none at this time. Overall grade point average of identified content courses is 3.71.

Comprehensive Summary of key findings and or decisions:

Further analysis will be sought between content faculty and education faculty to assist students in preparing for required licensure tests. It is important to note that NSU is dependent on student self-reporting that they are enrolled at NSU. No check is made to confirm their enrollment at NSU. It is also important to note that it cannot be determined whether the examinee is an undergraduate or alternative certification candidate. No action is needed on measure 2.1 at this time.