

Assessment Cycle

Academic Year 2016 – 2017

Program: 582 Educational Leadership and Instruction (concentrations available in Special Education, Educational Leadership, and Educational Technology Leadership)

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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Educational Leadership and Instruction in Special Education Mission: The Education Specialist program prepares in-service educators, who already hold at least master's degrees, for roles beyond strictly classroom teaching. The program's mission is to prepare in-service teachers to serve in public or private educational settings as school leaders, special education curriculum specialists, or technology directors. Candidates explore and test theory, research, and best practices in their respective disciplines through coursework and clinical experiences.

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)	EDUC 5890 Students use valid and reliable assessment practices

Measure 1.1. (Direct – Knowledge, Skills)

SLO 1 is assessed through a thesis proposal. The assessment is evaluated using the Thesis Proposal Rubric, and the benchmark performance is a score of 90% or better on the thesis proposal.

Finding: 100% pass rate (5 students) in research required in EDUC 5890

Analysis: In 2016-2017, 5 students completed EDUC 5890 and successfully passed the thesis proposal.

Action - Decision or Recommendation: No changes recommended.

Student Learning Outcome (SLO) 2:

Departmental Student Learning Goal	Program Student Learning Outcome
Apply discipline-specific content knowledge	EDUC 5990

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in professional practice (SPA #2)	Students conduct, evaluate, and use inquiry to guide professional practice.
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Measure: 2.1. (Direct – Knowledge, Skills)

SLO 2 is assessed through a thesis development. The assessment is evaluated using the thesis development rubric, and the benchmark performance is a score of 90% or better on thesis development.

Finding: 100% pass rate

Analysis: In 2016-2017, 5 students successfully completed EDUC 5990.

Action - Decision or Recommendation: No changes recommended.

Student Learning Outcome (SLO) 3:

Departmental Student Learning Goal	Program Student Learning Outcome
Model professional behaviors and characteristics	Oral Defense of Thesis Students use foundational knowledge of the field and professional ethical principles and practice standards to inform education practice, engage in lifelong learning, advance the profession, and perform leadership responsibilities.

Measure: 3.1. (Direct – Skills, Dispositions)

SLO 3 is assessed through a thesis defense. The assessment is evaluated using the thesis defense rubric, and the benchmark performance is a score of 90% or better on the thesis defense.

Finding: In 2016-2017, 5 students successfully completed a defense of their research.

Analysis: Since the major professor does not let a student defend until he/she is ready, all of those who defended their research did so successfully.

Action - Decision or Recommendation: continue to guide students to successful completion of defense of thesis.

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Comprehensive Summary of key findings and or decisions:

The three assessments for this program center around the proposal, development and defense of the thesis. The students receive guidance for every step of this process. Students are not asked to defend their thesis until their major professor is sure that the student will be successful. The department will continue to mentor and guide students through this process in order to ensure 100% successfully complete it.