

281—79.15 (256) Teacher preparation candidate knowledge, skills and dispositions standard. Teacher candidates shall demonstrate the content knowledge and the pedagogical and professional knowledge, skills and dispositions necessary to help all students learn in accordance with the following provisions. All provisions of this standard shall be demonstrated appropriately and equitably for all programs regardless of delivery model, including programs delivered by distance learning and programs offered on campus, off campus, and through any other model of delivery.

79.15(1) Prior to admission to the teacher preparation program, each teacher candidate attains the qualifying score determined by the unit on a basic skills test of reading, writing, and mathematics.

79.15(2) Each teacher candidate demonstrates the acquisition of a core of liberal arts knowledge, including but not limited to English composition, mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

79.15(3) Each teacher candidate completes specific, dedicated coursework in human relations and cultural competency and thus demonstrates acquisition of knowledge about and skill in interpersonal and intergroup relations that contribute to the development of sensitivity to and understanding of the values, beliefs, life styles, and attitudes of individuals and the diverse groups found in a pluralistic society. The unit shall provide evidence that the human relations and cultural competency coursework is designed to develop the ability of participants to:

a. Be aware of and understand the values, life styles, history, and contributions of various identifiable subgroups in our society.

b. Recognize and deal with dehumanizing biases such as sexism, racism, prejudice, and discrimination and become aware of the impact that such biases have on interpersonal relations.

c. Translate knowledge of human relations into attitudes, skills, and techniques which will result in favorable learning experiences for students.

d. Recognize human diversity and the rights of each individual.

e. Relate effectively to other individuals and various subgroups other than one's own.

f. Have an awareness of federal and state civil rights legislation as it impacts students.

79.15(4) Each teacher candidate demonstrates, within specific coursework dedicated to understanding exceptional learners, in other coursework, and in clinical experiences, the necessary knowledge, skills, and dispositions toward meeting the learning needs of all students, including students from diverse ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds, students with disabilities, students who are gifted and talented, English language learners, and students who may be at risk of not succeeding in school.

79.15(5) Each teacher candidate in elementary education demonstrates acquisition of knowledge about and receives preparation in elementary reading programs, including but not limited to reading recovery.

79.15(6) Each teacher candidate in secondary education demonstrates acquisition of knowledge about and receives preparation in the integration of reading strategies into secondary content areas.

79.15(7) Each teacher candidate demonstrates acquisition of the knowledge, skills and dispositions designated by the unit standards and aligned with the INTASC standards embedded in the professional education core for an Iowa teaching license at a level appropriate for a novice teacher. Each candidate exhibits competency in all of the following professional core curricula:

a. Content/subject matter specialization. The candidate demonstrates an understanding of the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structure of the discipline(s) the candidate teaches and creates learning experiences that make these aspects of the subject matter meaningful for students. This is evidenced by a completion of a 30-semester-hour teaching major which must minimally include the requirements for at least one of the basic endorsement areas, special education teaching endorsements, or secondary level occupational endorsements. Each elementary candidate must also complete a field of specialization in a single discipline or a formal interdisciplinary program of at least 12 semester hours.

b. Student learning. The candidate demonstrates an understanding of human growth and development and of how students learn and participates in learning opportunities that support intellectual, career, social and personal development.

c. Diverse learners. The candidate demonstrates an understanding of how students differ in their approaches to learning and creates instructional opportunities that are equitable and adaptable to diverse learners.

d. Instructional planning. The candidate plans instruction based upon knowledge of subject matter, students, the community, curriculum goals, and state curriculum models.

e. Instructional strategies. The candidate demonstrates an understanding of and an ability to use a variety of instructional strategies to encourage student development of critical and creative thinking, problem-solving, and performance skills.

f. Learning environment/classroom management. The candidate uses an understanding of individual and group motivation and behavior; creates a learning environment that encourages positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation; maintains effective classroom management; and is prepared to address behaviors related to substance abuse and other high-risk behaviors.

g. Communication. The candidate uses knowledge of effective verbal, nonverbal, and media communication techniques, and other forms of symbolic representation, to foster active inquiry and collaboration and to support interaction in the classroom.

h. Assessment. The candidate understands and uses formal and informal assessment strategies to evaluate the continuous intellectual, social, and physical development of the student, and effectively uses both formative and summative assessment of students, including student achievement data, to determine appropriate instruction.

i. Foundations, reflective practice and professional development. The candidate develops knowledge of the social, historical, and philosophical foundations of education. The candidate continually evaluates the effects of the candidate's choices and actions on students, parents, and other professionals in the learning community; actively seeks out opportunities to grow professionally; and demonstrates an understanding of teachers as consumers of research and as researchers in the classroom.

j. Collaboration, ethics and relationships. The candidate fosters relationships with parents, school colleagues, and organizations in the larger community to support student learning and development; demonstrates an understanding of educational law and policy, ethics, and the profession of teaching, including the role of boards of education and education agencies; and demonstrates knowledge of and dispositions for cooperation with other educators, especially in collaborative/co-teaching as well as in other educational team situations.

k. Technology. The candidate effectively integrates technology into instruction to support student learning.

l. Methods of teaching. Methods of teaching have an emphasis on the subject and grade level endorsement desired.

79.15(8) Each teacher candidate meets all requirements established by the board of educational examiners for any endorsement for which the candidate is recommended, as well as standards developed by national professional organizations as appropriate for specific endorsement areas. Programs shall submit curriculum exhibit sheets for approval by the board of educational examiners and the department.

79.15(9) Candidates seeking an endorsement in elementary education attain the state's designated criterion score on a content knowledge assessment as a condition precedent to successful program completion and recommendation for licensure.

79.15(10) Candidates seeking an initial Iowa teaching license demonstrate competency in coursework directly related to the Iowa core curriculum.