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|  | **EDCI 3800.005: Professional Issues in Teaching (Fall 2022)** |
| **Instructor:** | Elizabeth Moore, M.Ed. |
| **Class Location:** | F2F Matthews Hall 108; 8:00am- 9:30am |
| **Office:** | Matthews Hall 206 F/ Zoom: |
| **Office Hours:** | T/Th 9:30-10:30 am or by appointment. Zoom preferred. |
| **Communication:** | Canvas Message, e-mail if urgent [elizabeth.moore@unt.edu](mailto:elizabeth.moore@unt.edu) |

**UNT Course Description**

Overview of American education, including history, purposes, legal bases, school organization, education as a profession and analysis of characteristics required for professional success.

**Learning Goals**

This course is organized around addressing from a historical perspective the big questions: *How can we make our school system more just?* By the end of this course, students will

* Demonstrate an understanding of the historical purposes of public education in the United States.
* Demonstrate an understanding of the structure and function of education systems in the United States with emphasis on education in Texas.
* Engage in reflection and critical analysis of how schools work within larger social and political systems.
* Explore current issues in education as related to educational justice and the role of schools in society
* Identify and explore existing disparities within schools or across schools within a district
* Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of equity and the impact of diversity in the classroom.
* Work within Communities of Practice to envision steps toward just and equitable schools.
* Develop critical understanding of the expectations for a teacher in Texas

**Prerequisites**

None.

**Required Field Hours**

There will be no required field hours for this course.

**Notes on the Syllabus, Course, and Expectations**

The purpose of this course is to help you grow as a professional who understands the history, ethics, philosophy, and legal components of your profession. You will also learn a variety of teaching strategies, investigate inquiry lesson planning and curriculum, and practice leading a group discussion.

**This syllabus provides** basic information about our course and assignments. As the instructor, I reserve the right to change or modify course assignments, projects, and examinations as are needed to improve our class, but you will be notified with sufficient time for adjustment.

**Respect, courage, responsibility, energy, and communication** are essential to your success in this class. Throughout the course you will be expected to think deeply, creatively, and self-critically, support your conclusions with varied forms of evidence, and support our classroom community.

**Respect and courage** are critical. Your grade will be based, in part, upon evidence of your ability and willingness to think about ideas and beliefs that differ from your own and to question, with honesty and humility, your own underlying assumptions, motives, and actions. Because learning and development involve a degree of cognitive dissonance. This requires respect for others and courage to question oneself. These are essential qualities, because this is the way people grow!

**Responsibility and energy** are also essential to your success. Emphasis is placed on your contribution to the development of a diverse democratic community within our class. Every participant in our class is considered both a learner and a teacher. You will need to assume responsibility for both roles. Thus, you will be expected to contribute your positive energy to class activities and conversations, keep yourself on task in class, avoid being distracted by devices at inappropriate times, demonstrate respect for all participants, and help ensure that all participants are permitted and encouraged to share equally in class opportunities and responsibilities.

**Communication** is critical to your success in this class. Professional communication requires timely, clear, and respectful face-to-face/ digital communication. You are expected to communicate any issues (e.g., missed class, personal problems) well before class time or deadlines, or as soon as is possible. You are expected to respond to electronic communications (e.g., e-mail) from the instructor within 1-2

As is detailed in the **professional participation** I have **high expectations** for your professional and ethical approach to our class, which includes **communicating as soon as possible** if you will miss a class or deadline in part or in whole to make arrangements with me. **If you are absent** on a due date, it is your responsibility to find what was missed and **provide a review at our next class**. Late assignments or projects due to an absence should be turned in on time digitally via canvas or other means unless arrangements were made with appropriate notice.

There are **100 points available** for the course and all grades will be added in Canvas. I will take roll at the beginning of every class.

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| **# of Absences** | **Total participation points for the class**  *(out of 10 points)* |
| 0 –2 | 20 |
| 3 | 16 |
| 4 | 12 |
| 5 | 8 |
| 6 or more | You will automatically receive an F for your final grade |

Depending on degree and/or frequency, failure to meet professional participation expectations can result in grade deductions beyond 10% and/or failure of the class. If accepted, late assignments will be subject to a point deduction at my discretion. Assignments that are not completed at mastery levels may be returned for improvement, but these opportunities may be limited and a grade of "I" or "F" may be assigned. I am excited about the semester, and **I am here to support you** in your journey in the teaching profession. Do not hesitate to **set up an appointment** if you ever need assistance! Let’s make this semester a great one!

**Required Book**

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| * We will read several chapters from the following book which is available online through the UNT library:   Goldstein, D. (2014). *The teacher wars: A history of America’s most embattled profession*. New York, NY: Doubleday.   * It is also available for purchase at UNT bookstore & Amazon (ebook, new & used, etc.) * Available as audiobook through Audible   **Book Study:**  For the book study books will need to be purchased.  Some books may be available online through the UNT Library. |  |

**Electronic Resources**

Texas Education Agency: http://tea.texas.gov/

TExES Competencies: http://cms.texes-ets.org/files/3613/2949/6615/160\_ppr\_ec12.pdf

**Department of Teacher Education and Administration: Preparing Tomorrow’s Educators and Scholars**

The **Department of Teacher Education and Administration** seeks to improve educational practice through the generation of knowledge and to prepare education professionals who serve all students in an effective, inclusive and equitable manner. Its focus is on the preparation of highly competent educators, researchers and administrators who employ current theory and research as they fill these important roles.

**Mission**

The Department of Teacher Education and Administration integrates theory, research, and practice to generate knowledge and to develop educational leaders who advance the potential of all learners.

**Vision**

We aspire to be internationally recognized for developing visionary educators who provide leadership, promote social justice, and effectively educate all learners.

**UNT’s Course Policies**

### Face Coverings

UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines.  Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

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### Attendance

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course.  It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals.  Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

 If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fsymptoms-testing%2Fsymptoms.html&data=04%7C01%7CLauri.Morrow%40unt.edu%7Cf5922acf16c847d609bb08d95b7c3ee0%7C70de199207c6480fa318a1afcba03983%7C0%7C0%7C637641411465778240%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=5HZO7D21i5N9V9no6Y%2FiWWhE%2BIeE3xCPkLCTTeyuOsk%3D&reserved=0) ([https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fsymptoms-testing%2Fsymptoms.html&data=04%7C01%7CLauri.Morrow%40unt.edu%7Cf5922acf16c847d609bb08d95b7c3ee0%7C70de199207c6480fa318a1afcba03983%7C0%7C0%7C637641411465788226%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=EZ%2FLDed2Iw8BqwPBf9ya09neKFBckO2Yxf2Zg8yxUGw%3D&reserved=0)) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu)) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at [COVID@unt.edu](mailto:COVID@unt.edu) for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

**UNT’s Standard Syllabus Statements**

**Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences.** According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

**ADA Accommodation Statement.** UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

**Emergency Notification & Procedures.** UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course.

**Department Syllabus Statements**

**Foliotek ePortfolio** (where applicable). Foliotek is a software data management system (DMS) used in the assessment of your knowledge, skills, and dispositions relevant to program standards and objectives. You will be required to use your Foliotek account for the duration of your enrollment in the College of Education in order to upload required applications, course assignments, and other electronic evidences/evaluations as required. This course may require assignment(s) to be uploaded and graded in Foliotek. The College of Education will track your progress in your program through this data to verify that you have successfully met the competencies required in your program of study. All students must register in the program portfolio that aligns with their degree plan. Registration codes and tutorials can be found on this site: https://coe.unt.edu/educator-preparation-office/foliotek

**Student Evaluation Administration Dates.** Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via *IASystem* Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

**Sexual Assault Prevention.** UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648.

**Course Assignments, Brief Descriptions, and Grades**

*Grade Distribution: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=59- (grades are weighted)*

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| **Assignment** | **Brief Description** | **Points**  *100 total*  *points* |
| Attendance and Participation | **Respect, courage, responsibility, energy, and communication** are essential to your success in this class. Throughout the course you will be expected to think deeply, creatively, and self-critically, support your conclusions with varied forms of evidence, and support our classroom community, and develop and present positive alternatives to your instructor (not those outside our class community) when you are dissatisfied with an existing situation. When communicating concerns, you should respect others by only speaking for yourself.  **Respect and courage** are critical. Your grade will be based, in part, upon evidence of your ability and willingness to think about ideas and beliefs that differ from your own and to question, with honesty and humility, your own underlying assumptions, motives, and actions. Because learning and development involve a degree of cognitive dissonance, you must be prepared to struggle with ideas that challenge your current beliefs and understandings. This requires respect for others and courage to question oneself. These are essential qualities, because this is the way people grow!  **Responsibility and energy** are also essential to your success.  Emphasis is placed on your contribution to the development of a diverse democratic community within our class. Every participant in our class is considered both a learner and a teacher. You will need to assume responsibility for both roles. Thus, you will be expected to contribute your positive energy to class activities and conversations, engage in active listening no matter who is speaking, keep yourself on task in class, avoid being distracted by devices at inappropriate times, demonstrate respect for all participants, and help ensure that all participants are permitted and encouraged to share equally in class opportunities and responsibilities. A major responsibility, both as a learner and a teacher, is to attend class regularly and to be prepared. You will need to attend classes regularly, arrive on time, stay for the duration of the allotted time period, use break times effectively, and read all materials and complete all assignments carefully and on time.  **Communication** is critical to your success in this class. Professional communication requires timely, clear, and respectful videoconference and other digital communications. You are expected to communicate any issues (e.g., missed classes, personal problems) well before class time or deadlines, or as soon as possible. You are expected to respond to electronic communications (e.g., e-mail) from the instructor within 1 business day. Whether requested by you or your instructor, meeting to address course concerns can be critical to your growth. You should work to make requested meetings or suggest a timely day/time to meet. You are welcome to request a third party be present at any meeting. Issues related to your success, progress, or concerns in/for the course should be addressed with your instructor, not outside parties. When communicating concerns, be clear, support claims with specific evidence, and speak only for yourself unless given consent by others.  **Class attendance** is required and teacher candidates can lose points for late arrivals or early departures from class. The following points can be deducted for absences: 1st - no deduction; 2nd - 3 points; 3rd - 6 points; 4th - 9 points and/or failure of class. If you **miss class**, you are expected to identify what was missed and to inquire about completing missed assignments.  **Group Discussion** isalso required.  The Group Discussion will be conducted in class.  You will be divided into groups and discuss the Module focus question along with some guiding questions.  Following the guidelines in this section can help you grow as a professional and experience success in the class. However, depending on degree and/or frequency, a failure to meet professional participation expectations can result in grade deductions beyond 10 points and/or failure of the class. | 20% |
| Assessments | |  | | --- | | Summative and formative assessments are a means to evaluate comprehension, application, and transfer of course readings, videos, and podcasts. Most will be completed outside of class and due by 11:59 p.m. every Tuesday.  The Padlet assignments will serve as the formative assessments for the class. | | 20% |
| Learning Leaders Discussion | Either individually or with a partner, you will lead a 15-20 minute discussion  over assigned class text(s) during class meetings.  Most time must be dedicated to whole class discussion.  This page explains the potluck metaphor and previews the assignment.  You will complete a planning template & reflection section. | 15% |
| Book Study | With your group, you will lead a 25-30 minute discussion over your book and will present your findings to class. **More details to come.** | 20% |
| District Equity Audit | The purpose of this project is to inquire into and interrogate the past, present, and future of local school districts. Using the Civil Rights Data Collection dashboard (<https://ocrdata.ed.gov>) and the Education Trust State of Funding Equity tool (<https://edtrust.org/our-resources/data-tools>), and other resources presented in class and on Canvas, students will create a report and presentation of school or district level disparities in resources, access, or outcomes for historically marginalized groups of students and Communities of Color (e.g., staffing, finance, pathways to college/career, discipline). Students will include insights as to what schools can do to dismantle such disparities including the role of teachers. We will pay particular attention to the various ways segregation and inequality have been implemented in and across schools and school districts in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Our overall compelling question for this project is, *how do we make our education system just?* All students will explore the featured sources (readings, podcasts, etc.) throughout the class. All students will be assigned to a small group that inquires into and interrogates a particular school district with the aim of answering the supporting question, how do we make my school district just? Students will submit an 8-10 minute podcast or video that includes visuals that address the featured sources (readings, podcasts, etc.) that includes a list of equity shortcomings and a list of equity recommendations the district might implement. Each group member will report their group contributions. The whole class will conclude by viewing each group’s media and discussing the compelling question. | 25%  Final due Dec 13th |
| Total | There are 100 points available for the course and all grades will be added in Canvas. | 100 |

**The Educator as Agent of Engaged Learning**

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Improving the quality of education in Texas schools and elsewhere is the goal of programs for the education of educators at the University of North Texas. To achieve this goal, programs leading to teacher certification and advanced programs for educators at the University of North Texas 1) emphasize content, curricular, and pedagogical knowledge acquired through research and informed practice of the academic disciplines, 2) incorporate the Texas Teacher Proficiencies for learner centered education, 3) feature collaboration across the university and with schools and other agencies in the design and delivery of programs, and 4) respond to the rapid demographic, social, and technological change in the United States and the world.

**The educator as agent of engaged learning** summarizes the conceptual framework for UNT's basic and advanced programs. This phrase reflects the directed action that arises from simultaneous commitment to academic knowledge bases and to learner centered practice. "Engaged learning" signifies the deep interaction with worthwhile and appropriate content that occurs for each student in the classrooms of caring and competent educators. "Engaged learning" features the on-going interchange between teacher and student about knowledge and between school and community about what is worth knowing. This conceptual framework recognizes the relationship between UNT and the larger community in promoting the commitment of a diverse citizenry to life-long learning. In our work of developing educators as agents of engaged learning, we value the contributions of professional development schools and other partners and seek collaborations which advance active, meaningful, and continuous learning.

Seeing the engaged learner at the heart of a community that includes educators in various roles, we have chosen to describe each program of educator preparation at UNT with reference to the following key concepts, which are briefly defined below.

1. **Content and curricular knowledge** refer to the grounding of the educator in content knowledge and knowledge construction and in making meaningful to learners the content of the PreK-16 curriculum.

2. **Knowledge of teaching and assessment** refers to the ability of the educator to plan, implement, and assess instruction in ways that consistently engage learners or, in advanced programs, to provide leadership for development of programs that promote engagement of learners.

3. **Promotion of equity for all learners** refers to the skills and attitudes that enable the educator to advocate for all students within the framework of the school program.

4. **Encouragement of diversity** refers to the ability of the educator to appreciate and affirm formally and informally the various cultural heritages, unique endowments, learning styles, interests, and needs of learners.

5. **Professional communication** refers to effective interpersonal and professional oral and written communication that includes appropriate applications of information technology.

6. **Engaged professional learning** refers to the educator's commitment to ethical practice and to continued learning and professional development.

Through the experiences required in each UNT program of study, we expect that basic and advanced students will acquire the knowledge, skills, and dispositions appropriate to the educational role for which they are preparing or in which they are developing expertise.

A broad community stands behind and accepts responsibility for every engaged learner. UNT supports the work of PreK-16 communities through basic and advanced programs for professional educators and by promoting public understanding of issues in education.

*Ethical Behavior and Code of Ethics:* The Teacher Education & Administration Department expects that its students will abide by the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators (Chapter 247 of the Texas Administrative Code www.sbec.state.tx.us) and as outlined in Domain IV: Fulfilling Professional Roles and Responsibilities of the Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES); and as also addressed in codes of ethics adopted by professionals in the education field such as the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

*Submitting Work:* All assignments will be submitted via Canvas. Assignments posted after the deadline will be considered late and points will be deducted from the final grade.

*Grading and Grade Reporting:* Grading rubrics for all assignments can be found on the course Canvas site with the assignment. Students are encouraged to review the grading rubrics to guide them in successfully completing all assignments.

*Writing Policy:* Teachers are judged on the accuracy of everything they write, whether it is a letter to parents or an email to a principal or a worksheet for students. Your written products – including, but not limited to, papers, lesson plans, and emails – should include appropriate and accurate spelling, grammar, punctuation, syntax, format, and English usage. You should expect that all assignments will be evaluated on these writing skills, in addition to any other expectations of a particular assignment. The UNT Writing Lab (Sage Hall 152) offers one-on-one consultation to assist students with their writing assignments. To use this resource, call (940) 565-2563 or visit https://ltc.unt.edu/labs/unt-writing-lab-home.

**Teacher Education & Administration | Departmental Policy Statements**

UNT Career Connect: All undergraduate students are expected to participate in “UNT Career Connect.” Each student needs to set up a UNT e-portfolio for this purpose. As a UNT student engages in real-life, career-related experiences in curricular and/or co-curricular settings, s/he should upload documentation of these experiences into his/her UNT e-portfolio. Course instructors will help students identify appropriate experiences and accompanying documentation/artifacts for inclusion in the e-portfolio. Through their respective e-portfolios, students are able to make connections across their student experiences and reflect upon their learning and skills in order to prepare them with marketable skills for careers and graduate degrees. The e-portfolio also serves as a useful device for future job interviews. Career Connect places emphasis on important job skills such as communication, teamwork, and critical thinking. For students seeking teacher certification, these on-the-job skills will be evaluated during student teaching using the North Texas Appraisal of Classroom Teaching (NTACT) or its successor instrument. Follow this link to learn more and to set up your personal e-portfolio: http://careerconnect.unt.edu/default.

*Disabilities Accommodation:* “The University of North Texas complies with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The University of North Texas provides academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities, as defined under the law. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please see the instructor and/or contact the Office of Disability Accommodation at 940-565-4323 during the first week of class.”

*Observation of Religious Holidays:* If you plan to observe a religious holy day that coincides with a class day, please notify your instructor as soon as possible.

*Academic Integrity:* Students are encouraged to become familiar with UNT’s policy on Student Standards of Academic Integrity:

<http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf>. Academic dishonesty, in the form of plagiarism, cheating, or fabrication, will not be tolerated in this class. Any act of academic dishonesty will be reported, and a penalty determined, which may be probation, suspension, or expulsion from the university.

*Acceptable Student Behavior:* Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

*Attendance:* See the instructor’s attendance policy*.*

*Eagle Connect*: All official correspondence between UNT and students is conducted via Eagle Connect and it is the student's responsibility to read their Eagle Connect Email regularly.

*Cell Phones and Laptop:* Students should turn off cell phones when they are in class unless the phones are being used for learning activities associated with the course.

*SPOT:* The Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is expected for all organized classes at UNT. This brief online survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class.

*Collection of Student Work*: In order to monitor students' achievement, improve instructional programs, and publish research findings, the Department of Teacher Education and Administration collects anonymous student work samples, student demographic information, test scores, and GPAs to be analyzed by internal and external reviewers.

*TK20*: Some undergraduate and graduate education courses require assignments that must be uploaded and assessed in the UNT TK20 Assessment System. This requires a one-time purchase of TK20, and student subscriptions are effective for seven years from the date of purchase. Please go to the following link for directions on how to purchase TK20: http://www.coe.unt.edu/tk20-campus-tools. Announcements regarding TK20 will also be posted on this website.

*Comprehensive Arts Program Policy.* The Elementary Education program area supports a comprehensive arts program to assist preservice and inservice teachers to design and implement curricular and instructional activities which infuse all areas of the arts (visual, music, theater, and movement) throughout the elementary and middle school curriculum.

*Technology Integration Policy.* The Elementary, Secondary, and Curriculum & Instruction program areas support technology integration to assist preservice and inservice teachers to design and implement curricular and instruction activities which infuse technology throughout the K-12 curriculum.

*TExES Test Preparation*. To meet state requirements for providing 6 hours of test preparation for teacher certification candidates, the UNT TExES Advising Office (TAO) administers the College of Education TExES Practice Exams. Students who want to take a practice exam should contact the TAO (Matthews Hall 103). Students may take up to *two exams* per session that relate to their teaching track/field at UNT. Students should also plan accordingly, as they are required to stay for the entire testing period. Current students must meet the following criteria in order to sit for the TExES practice exams: Students must (1) be admitted to Teacher Education, (2) have a certification plan on file with the COE Student Advising Office, and (3) be enrolled in coursework for the current semester. For TExES practice exam information and registration, go to: http://www.coe.unt.edu/texes-advising-office/texes-exams. If you need special testing accommodations, please contact the TAO at 940-369-8601or e-mail the TAO at coe-tao@unt.edu. The TAO website is www.coe.unt.edu/texes. Additional test preparation materials (i.e. Study Guides for the TExES) are available at www.texes.ets.org.

*“Ready to Test” Criteria for Teacher Certification Candidates*. Teacher certification candidates should take the TExES exams relating to their respective certification tracks/teaching fields during their early-field-experience semester (i.e. the long semester or summer session immediately prior to student teaching).

*Six Student Success Messages.* The Department of Teacher Education & Administration supports the six student success messages on how to succeed at UNT: (1) Show up; (2) Find support; (3) Get advised; (4) Be prepared; (5) Get involved; and (6) Stay focused. Students are encouraged to access the following website: https://success.unt.edu. The site contains multiple student resource links and short videos with student messages.