



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

## Dispositions Portfolio

Graduate Programs in Elementary Education

The Five Core Propositions of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) outline the knowledge, skills, and dispositions for quality teachers. Among the key dispositions that measure a teacher's effectiveness are equity, fairness, respect for diversity, reflective practice, professional growth, and collaboration. Courses and related experiences within the graduate programs at Delta State University have been designed to hone the dispositions characteristic of professional educators. Assessment of such dispositions will be accomplished by the Dispositions Portfolio. The Disposition Portfolio will serve two purposes. First, it will engage each candidate in self-reflection that facilitates an examination of how one's own beliefs impact practice. Second, the Disposition Portfolio will enable each graduate program to assess its effectiveness in providing learning experiences that promote the development of dispositions that exemplify professional educators.

The Disposition Portfolio will be developed by each candidate who submits an application for the Comprehensive Exam. The portfolio will be an electronic document that addresses each of the following dispositions: fairness, the belief that all students can learn professionalism, resourcefulness, dependability, and commitment to inquiry. Descriptions for each disposition are listed in the Rating Scale. You will self-evaluate your portfolio and submit it for faculty evaluation. The criteria for evaluation of the portfolio are noted in the Appraisal Scale.

The Disposition Portfolio must be submitted via TaskStream, our electronic assessment tool. Each candidate is expected to purchase and use TaskStream for all assignments so designated in specific courses and for the Dispositions Portfolio, which is completed at application to the Comprehensive Exam. Program faculty will evaluate your Portfolio and submit a rating which you can view on TaskStream.

To purchase TaskStream, go to [www.taskstream.com](http://www.taskstream.com) to pay by credit card. The DSU bookstore has TaskStream accounts that can be purchased with financial aid funds.

**Directions:** Review the Graduate Dispositions (page 9) & Rating Scale (page 11). The Disposition Indicators (e.g., 1.1, 1.2) provide clarification needed to understand what each disposition means.

**1. Reflect on your experiences throughout your graduate program to develop an electronic portfolio that documents how you meet the criteria for each of the following six dispositions: fairness, the belief that all students can learn professionalism, resourcefulness, dependability, and commitment to inquiry.** This electronic document must include a cover page and six sections (one section for each disposition). Each section must contain narratives and supporting evidence for each disposition. The narratives should address how you exemplify each disposition and the related indicators as well as a brief description of how the evidence supports your stance. The narratives should be no more than 2 paragraphs for each disposition. The supporting evidence should clearly display a direct connection to the narratives. Supporting evidence can be assignments or descriptions of assignments and course experiences that clearly address the disposition characteristics. Other acceptable pieces of evidence include pictures, instructor and/or peer comments, and self-reflections. Each piece of evidence must be accompanied by a brief descriptive statement or caption. At least one piece of supporting evidence must be submitted for each disposition; however, the evidence must encompass all related indicators for a particular disposition as described in the Rating Scale. There may be dispositions for which you will include two or more pieces of evidence in order to fully address the disposition and related indicators.

2. **Use the Appraisal Scale to self-rate your Dispositions Portfolio on TaskStream.** Justify your ratings of each disposition with brief statements. Program faculty will also rate your portfolio and return a rating to you via TaskStream.

3. **Submit the Disposition Portfolio via TaskStream.** The chart below lists the deadlines for submitting the Dispositions Portfolio.

Semester you plan to take the Comprehensive Exam	Deadline for Submitting the Dispositions Portfolio	Month of Comprehensive Exam
Fall	4th Monday in August	October
Spring	4th Monday in January	March
Summer I	4th Monday in April	June
Summer II	4th Monday in May	July

### Graduate Dispositions

Characteristic (Disposition)	Rating of Disposition	Evidence for 1,2, or 4 Rating
<b>1. Fairness</b> 1.1 Strives to meet the educational needs of all students in a caring, non-discriminatory, and equitable manner  1.2 Treats students, families, community members, and colleagues with dignity and respect, regardless of background, ethnicity/race, capabilities, or beliefs	<b>1. Fairness</b> ____	
<b>2. The Belief That All Students Can Learn</b> 2.1 Establishes a classroom, school, and/or school district climate that supports the learning, development, emotional well-being, and physical well-being of a diverse student population  2.2 Effectively plans and implements teaching and assessment strategies that address the experiences; academic, emotional, and physical needs; developmental levels; and interests of a diverse student population; or effectively participates in this process as an administrator	<b>2. The Belief That All Students Can Learn</b> ____	
<b>3. Professionalism</b> 3.1 Engages in ongoing self-reflection and professional development  3.2 Consistently displays professional appearance and actions, including effective oral and written communication  3.3 Collaborates with professors, students, colleagues, families, and/or community members	<b>3 Professionalism</b> ____	
<b>4. Resourcefulness</b> 4.1 Motivates self and others to perform well	<b>4 Resourcefulness</b> ____	

4.2 Acts in a proactive manner by anticipating what a situation calls for and responding appropriately  4.3 Uses personal talents to enhance professional functioning  4.5 Adapts willingly to change		
<b>5. Dependability</b> 5.1 Attends all expected classes and meetings, and arrives punctually  5.2 Participates meaningfully in classes and meetings  5.3 Fulfills responsibilities in the college classroom and in P-12 settings	<b>5. Dependability</b> _____	
<b>6. Commitment to Inquiry</b> 6.1 Is knowledgeable of the professional literature in his/her field of study  6.2 Implements research-based strategies in his/her practice  6.3 Uses data to make decisions regarding learning and teaching	<b>6. Commitment to Inquiry</b> _____	

### Dispositions Portfolio Appraisal Scale

**1 – Does not meet expectations** - Poorly and/or inadequately developed narrative that reveals little or no evidence of fully meeting the disposition; inappropriate and/or no use of evidence that supports the narrative and disposition; Poorly stated ideas with poor use of grammar, sentence structure, word choice, and spelling.

**2 – Meets a few expectations but not sufficient** - Minimal development of narrative that reveals insufficient evidence of fully meeting the disposition; mostly inappropriate evidence that supports the narrative; Ambiguous statement of ideas with poor use of grammar, sentence structure, word choice, and spelling.

**3 – Meets expectations** - Thorough development of narrative that reveals adequate and acceptable evidence of fully meeting the disposition; appropriate evidence that clearly supports the narrative and disposition; Clear statement of ideas with acceptable use of grammar, sentence structure, word choice, and spelling.

**4 – Exceeds expectations** - Thorough development of narrative that reveals outstanding evidence of full embodiment of the disposition; Multiple outstanding evidence that clearly supports the narrative and disposition; Clear statement of ideas with outstanding use of grammar, sentence structure, word choice, and spelling.