

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY TEACHER EDUCATION UNIT MISSION STATEMENT

Mission of the Teacher Education Unit

The mission of the unit is consistent with CSU's core mission that advocates "superior career-oriented studies that will prepare students to succeed in the world of work in the 21st Century and provide services and continuing education that will assist the Southern Crescent and the state in improving the quality of life for residents." To this end, the mission of the Teacher Education Unit is to prepare collaborative, reflective professional educators who are competent, caring and committed individuals for teaching diverse learners in today's world. The primary goals are to develop teachers who:

- are knowledgeable about and committed to working with learners,
- understand curriculum and the organization of schools for teaching and learning,
- understand that teaching is inquiring,
- have content knowledge and are lifelong learners,
- value varying learning experiences and diversity, and
- determine and adjust teaching methods and strategies according to the needs of individual learners.

Two guiding principles were used in the development of the mission statement based on the following dimensions:

- all components of teacher education programs will be described in outcome-focused, assessment-based terminology and will be designed to enhance student learning, and
- all outcomes of teacher education programs will be assessed by performance in a variety of settings.

Offering teacher education coursework in the School of Arts and Sciences, along with content courses in the School of Arts and Sciences and the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences, fulfills the teacher education unit's mission. Required coursework for the middle grades program gives emphasis to breadth and depth of knowledge in the four discipline content areas consisting of mathematics, language arts, social sciences, and science. Music courses provide the same breadth and depth of knowledge for music education candidates. Because of both programs' commitment to field-based learning, our candidates receive pedagogical instruction not only from university faculty on campus but also from field-based teachers in partnership school buildings. These mentor teachers provide planned pedagogical experiences for both junior and senior candidates.