

# EDML 4372: Mathematics in the Middle Grades

Fall 2014: Mondays 10 AM–noon, TH 111, and see calendar below

## Instructor Information

*Instructor:* Dr. Christopher Kribs

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*Course Content:* Curriculum standards, methods, and effective teaching practices as proposed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics for the middle level; the organization of mathematics content with an emphasis on using manipulatives and technology to teach math. This course is aligned with the Association for Middle Level Education's 2012 Middle Level Teacher Preparation Standards, available online at <http://www.amle.org>

*Course home page:* <http://mathed.uta.edu/kribs/4372.html>

## Course Information

*Prerequisites:* acceptance into mid-level certification program, plus EDUC 2101, EDML 4300, EDTC 4301

NOTE: Students should already be familiar with some basics of education, including lesson plans, resources, classroom management, and school culture, which should have been addressed in prerequisites. The instructor will be happy to work with any students who have questions on these matters, but they will not be a principal topic of conversation in class.

*Required course materials:* Required readings (see bibliography on last page) are available online or at the UTA Libraries. Course activities are available in PDF on the class web page. For long-term reference, the following methods text is highly regarded:

John A. Van de Walle, Karen Karp, Jennifer M. Bay-Williams, *Elementary and middle school mathematics: teaching developmentally*, Allyn & Bacon, 2010. ISBN 0205573525.

*Last day to withdraw:* October 29

**Student Learning Outcomes:** This course is designed to prepare future middle grades school teachers *pedagogically* to teach math. After completing this course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge about the NCTM standards and the TEKS.
- reflect upon their experiences observing classroom teachers and teaching students in an actual middle grades setting.
- demonstrate competency in a hands-on approach with emphasis on middle grades students being active participants in their own learning.
- demonstrate awareness of learner-centered proficiencies via the TExES exam.
- analyze and value the mathematical thinking of students.
- consider the role of student thinking in making instructional decisions.
- define and select mathematical objectives and activities for their students.

**Grading:** The grade for this course is determined by the following five components, using the traditional ten-point scale (90–100=A, 80–89=B, etc.):

- 20% Preparation & Participation
- 20% Student interview
- 20% Case study
- 20% Interdisciplinary unit
- 20% Lesson paper

<i>A calendar for this course is given on the last page of this syllabus.</i>
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## Course policies

**Attendance:** “At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance.” This course follows the department and program policy of taking attendance, by means of a sign-in sheet. Attendance & participation in our class activities are crucial, as most of what I hope you will take with you from this course will happen in our classroom. It is *the student's responsibility* to sign in each week, and to follow up with the instructor as necessary. Each student is allowed one absence for reasons of health, religion, time conflicts, etc. without penalty. Arriving substantially late or leaving early counts as half an absence. Each absence beyond the one allowed will reduce the final grade by one letter grade, per department policy.

Our class meets on Mondays 10 AM–noon in TH111 on weeks when students are in field placements Tue–Fri. On other weeks, the class will meet Tuesday mornings 9AM to noon, cf. calendar on page 6.

**Written Assignments:** With the exception of examples of student work, written assignments are expected to be typed and use correct grammar and punctuation. (Diagrams, equations, etc. may of course be hand-drawn.) No cover pages required, 2-sided printing OK.

All major assignments (i.e., excluding reflections) must also be uploaded to Tk20.

Each student is allowed one late submission during the semester. The paper must be submitted before the beginning of the class period following that in which it was due. Papers not submitted by the end of class time on the due date are considered late. The first late paper submitted will be the only one graded.

Each student is allowed one electronic (PDF) submission during the semester. Electronic submissions must be complete and not missing any ancillary materials such as student work necessary for grading. (If the electronic submission is made late, then it is both the only late paper allowed and the only electronic submission allowed.) This does not include drafts sent for consultation prior to submission.

*Please* be sure to follow directions/answer the question that is asked. (This is where most points are lost.) Also, bear in mind you must explain yourself *clearly* in order to get credit for what you *mean* to say.

**Rewrite:** Each student is allowed to submit one revised paper for a regrade, under the following terms: The revised paper and the graded original must be turned in together at the penultimate class meeting. The new grade replaces the original. Students should consult with the instructor before submitting a revised paper.

## 1. Preparation & Participation

You are expected to come to class prepared, and to participate in our class discussions, in both small and large groups. Preparation includes reading the assigned texts, making notes on them in order to be able to participate effectively in class discussions, and bringing all necessary materials and texts to class with you.

On most days in which there is not a major assignment due, you will write a short (about one page) reflection in response to a prompt given below, in preparation for either class discussion or a major assignment. Some involve “action research” reports in which you will write about your own students’ thinking. You will often use and discuss your responses in class, within your small groups and in large group. These reflections are to be turned in at the end of class; I will respond to them in writing and return them at our next class meeting. Grading will be limited to verifying that responses are appropriate in topic & length.

Your reflections will serve to document your preparation for class each day (and your growth over time); your preparation and participation grade will be based half on your reflections (entries should be complete each week before class) and half on your participation in class discussions (I expect participation in large-group discussion at least ten of the seventeen times we will meet).

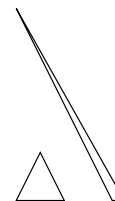
Participation includes raising questions of your own as well as responding to those of others, and being prepared to contribute by having read the assigned readings for each week and prepared responses to the case studies. When you have no answers to share, you should ask a question, because chances are you’re not the only one who has it. If you find you have difficulty speaking up in *large* group, write down a few questions before class which arose for you during the readings. When working in *small* groups, it is often useful to have the following roles assigned, to make sure the group does not stagnate: (1) facilitator/moderator, (2) recorder, (3) speaker (for the group, in whole-class discussions), (4) materials coordinator. Small groups should always have three or four members. Of course, participation also includes appropriate, professional behavior (e.g., not working on outside projects in class, paying respectful attention while someone else is speaking). If at any time you are unsure how you are being graded in these areas, please ask your instructor.

## Reflections

1. *Definitions of even.* (i) Write your own definitions for “odd” and “even”. (ii) Ask several students to define these words (use age-appropriate vocabulary, but be careful not to use suggestive terms). Report their responses verbatim, and then compare them with your own.
2. *Mini-interview.* Interview a single student to see to what extent (s)he can articulate (and, as appropriate, justify) generalizations about the result of adding two odd numbers. Use age-appropriate terms. This assignment should serve as a dry run for the student interview assignment, so see that portion of the syllabus for the general format, but keep in mind that this mini-interview should cover only one question and thus be much smaller in scope.
3. *Role of conjecture.* What is conjecture’s role in problem solving? What is its value (if any) in problems that are never fully solved? (Consider MATH 1330’s Poison and Stamps problems.)
4. *Mini-case study.* Pose, to a group of K–8 students, a single question similar to those in the cases we have read or seen, or from one of our class discussions. (Make sure it is appropriate to the students’ grade level.) Write about your question, what you expected, and what actually happened. Did anything surprise you? Please describe specific examples of what your students say and do. Examining the work of a few students in detail may be more helpful than trying to incorporate the responses of every student. Think of this as a dry run for the case study.
5. *Analyzing multiplication strategies.* Each of the following three computations uses a nontraditional multiplication algorithm to reach a correct answer. For each computation, give a rigorous (justified) analysis including answers to the following questions:

(1) Is it mathematically sound?	(a)	$\begin{array}{r} 24 \\ \times 64 \\ \hline 256 \\ 1536 \\ \hline 1536 \end{array}$	(b)	$\begin{array}{r} 725 \\ \times 8 \\ \hline 660 \\ 5800 \\ \hline 5800 \end{array}$	(c)	$\begin{array}{r} 1290 \\ \times 403 \\ \hline 36270 \\ 519870 \\ \hline 519870 \end{array}$
(2) If so, how far can it be extended?						
(3) Based upon the skills required and not required (relative to the traditional algorithm), what motivated the approach?						

6. *Lesson draft.* See lesson paper description (items 1–3).
7. *Shape of a problem.* Outside of class, solve the “Pentominoes” problem in the course materials. (Do not seek help from the Internet, as this paper is not about the answers, but about the problem-solving process.) Afterward, write a reflection describing the different phases through which you passed in working on it. What realizations or decisions triggered shifts from each phase to the next? Do *not* present the entire solution—just identify the points when you changed what you were doing or addressed a new question.
8. *Defining area.* (a) Is the definition of “area” in your dictionary good enough to explain the meaning of the term to someone who had never heard the concept before? If not, how does it fail? Imagine you have a student with the learning disability “unidimensia”, where they persistently think of everything in terms of length only (e.g., they think a skinny triangle “takes up more room” than a fat one). Try to write a definition of “area” that will work even on such a student. Also be sure to distinguish area from volume. (b) How could you compare two triangles such as those at right to determine which is bigger?
9. *Deconstruction and rescaling.* (i) Write a formal deconstruction of the focal problem from your lesson paper, and (ii) (re)structure it at least two different ways (that is, change the presentation, not the problem itself), for students at slightly higher and lower levels.
10. *Assessing problem solving.* The case study “Right or Wrong” in this week’s readings involves the grading of two student papers to the same problem. Begin by reading only the first page, including the papers by Chris and Pat. Develop an explicit 5-point grading scale or rubric for scoring responses to this specific problem (not a generic one), and write a paragraph explaining what you think the most important issues involved in this problem are. Then apply your scale to both papers, and write a short paragraph explaining why each paper received the grade (0–5) you assigned it. Finally, read the rest of the case study, and write a paragraph in which you respond either to the issues raised in the last page of the study, or to the scores the teachers in the study gave these papers.



## 2. Student interview

In order to develop (or strengthen) the habit of attending to student thinking in detail, you will conduct an interview with a student from your class to assess her/his understanding of a specific mathematical topic. You may choose the student and topic, but the interview should involve a major topic from this course. Begin by obtaining all necessary permissions to conduct and record (audio or video) the interview; explain to all interested parties (including the student!) that you need the student's help for a class in which you are studying how students learn, and that this interview will not affect the student's grades; it will just help you understand how the student thinks. (Recording the interview will keep you from needing to make detailed notes during it.)

Before the interview, get a copy of recent written work by the student showing her/his ability to reason and problem-solve (the work need not be error-free, but there should be enough progress made to discuss the problem). Make sure the student is familiar with the paper, and begin the interview by asking him/her to explain the work, including what difficulties s/he encountered.

Continue the interview by asking further questions about the mathematical topic involved (see the handout on interviewing tips on the course web site). You will need to use both pre-prepared questions and ad hoc follow-up questions to develop a coherent line of questioning. Remember that *in order to determine the limits of a student's knowledge, you must continue until you reach a question which the student either cannot answer or answers incorrectly for reasons other than a simple careless error*. You should be able to do this without making the student feel badly.

After the interview, use your recording to make a more detailed analysis of the student's thinking, with regard to both problem-solving abilities and knowledge of the particular mathematical topic. Begin with a brief introduction to provide context. Give an overall narration of the interview (e.g., say what specific tasks or problems you asked the student to work on). Use specific details or quotes to support your analysis. Conclude your write-up with an explicit summary of what the student knows, what the student does not know, and what the student is ready (or needs) to work on next (see interview tips handout for more).

## 3. Case study

During the course we will read and discuss in class several case studies, all describing events in other teachers' classrooms. For this assignment, you are to write a short (roughly 3–5 pages) case study describing a mathematical discussion involving one or more students, similar to these cases. A case is neither a complete transcript of a lesson nor as prefabricated as an interview, although it should include direct quotes and dialogue from students.

You must base your case on a conversation for which you were present, and preferably in which you were involved, but it could come out of a lesson you observed, or a conversation among two or more students. You may choose to narrow in on one or two students, or on one small group, or you may describe a whole-class conversation. Most important is that the episode illustrate some aspect of children's mathematical thinking.

In writing your case study, begin by describing briefly the class's larger context (including grade level) and the mathematical topic; then describe the relevant parts of the conversation in as much detail as you can manage. Include what you are thinking as you work with the students. Finish up by summarizing your evaluation of the students involved and saying what issues and questions you still have after this conversation. Include an analysis of the students' thinking, and questions the case raises for you. *It is important that your reflection address teaching issues beyond the one topic and set of students involved*, in order to document your ability as a reflective practitioner to make connections that inform your teaching practice more broadly.

We will discuss the writing of cases in more detail before they are due, but you are encouraged to begin sooner if you have a good conversation fresh in your mind. I will be glad to help you.

## 4. Interdisciplinary unit

As part of the EDML methods block, students will develop an interdisciplinary unit, primarily during the 3-week period between the two field placements. The unit will include developing lesson plans, teaching to students, and presentations to the class. Grading will involve the instructors of all four EDML courses, with components from mathematics, science, reading in the content areas, and the practicum. Further details will be made available in the first month of the semester.

## 5. Lesson paper

In this course we will study the teaching and learning of K–8 mathematics. To document your ability to plan, deliver, and reflect upon instruction, you will develop, teach and document an exemplary lesson, and give a short (5-minute) presentation to the class on it. The lesson draft (Reflection 7) includes items 1–3 below. The final lesson paper you submit must include *all* of the following components, clearly identifiable and distinct, including items 1–3 (revised if necessary):

1. Select or develop a rich mathematics problem intended for use with the students you teach. You may use or adapt a problem from class materials, but be sure it is appropriate for the target audience. (Say where you got it from, and, if you have used it before, in what capacity, and what you learned from it.) The best lessons tend either to integrate multiple strands of mathematics to illustrate connections, or to address significant conceptual issues within a single strand as a summative activity following multiple experiences in developing and exploring a concept. Specify prerequisite knowledge.
2. Write a paragraph explaining what concepts from this course are entailed in this problem. (You may use deconstruction if it helps you identify them, but write in paragraph form.)
3. Add to the above written descriptions a short sketch of how you plan to use the problem in a lesson.
4. Write a lesson plan that uses the problem/activity as a significant problem-solving opportunity with your students. Include prerequisite knowledge, closure activities, and important discussion points.
5. Teach the lesson to your students (see me if this is problematic). Then write a one-page reflection on how the lesson went, including what strategies students used to approach the problem, what ideas were raised in its discussion, and to what extent your students' understanding of the underlying concepts—or ability to apply them—changed as a result of the lesson. Be specific.
6. Make a one-page handout (you may use front and back if necessary, but it *must* fit on one sheet) summarizing your lesson for the class. Include the problem, grade level, mathematical topics addressed, and anything your colleagues would need to know in order to use the lesson, including (briefly) any difficulties the students tended to encounter. The handout should *not* be the same as your lesson plan (select details!), and must be turned in with the main paper.
7. Give a brief (5-minute) presentation to the class, using the handout, at our last class meeting.

I encourage you to discuss this project with me as often as you like, throughout the semester. A preliminary draft of the selected problem and lesson idea (not [necessarily] yet taught) is due as Reflection 7. Final documentation is due at Session 13 (so that I can return it to you), *including a handout*, with the presentations to be given during finals week.

### Action research on definitions (not to turn in):

- D5 *Defining operations.* (i) Write your own (informal is fine) definitions for the four arithmetic operations. (ii) Ask several students to define or explain one or more of the four (use age-appropriate vocabulary, but be careful not to use terms like putting together and taking away, which already do most of the defining). Report their responses verbatim, and then compare them with your own definitions.
- D7 *Defining fraction and decimal.* Ask several students to define or explain what fractions are (use age-appropriate vocabulary, but be careful not to use suggestive terms like part-whole). Do the same for decimals (clarify you don't mean just a dot). Report their responses verbatim, and then compare them with your own working definitions for these terms.
- D14 *Defining "middle".* How would you define the center of a circle? of a square? of a parallelogram? How would you define the center of a scalene triangle? of the state of Texas?

## Bibliography

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- Deborah Loewenberg Ball, What's all this talk about 'discourse'?, *Arithmetic Teacher* 39(3): 44–48, 1991.
- [FDRP] Carne Barnett, Donna Goldenstein, and Babette Jackson (Eds.) *Fractions, decimals, ratios, & percents*, Heinemann, Portsmouth NH, 1994.
- William S. Bush (ed.) (2000). *Mathematics assessment: cases and discussion questions for grades 6–12*. Reston, VA: NCTM. pp. 20–23, 36–39.
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- J. Ferrini-Mundy, G. Lappan and E. Phillips, Experiences with patterning, *TCM* 3(6): 282–288, Feb 1997.
- Alfinio Flores, Subtraction of positive and negative numbers, *MTMS* 14(1): 21–23, Aug 2008.
- Holli Hall, Equality revisited, 2000.
- Christopher M. Kribs-Zaleta, Oranges, posters, ribbons, and lemonade: concrete computational strategies for dividing fractions, *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School* 13(8): 453–457, April 2008.
- [BST] Deborah Schifter, Virginia Bastable, and Susan Jo Russell. (1999). *Building a System of Tens (Number and Operation, Part 1) Casebook*. Parsippany, NJ: Dale Seymour/Pearson.
- [EFS] Deborah Schifter, Virginia Bastable, and Susan Jo Russell. (2002). *Examining Features of Shape Casebook*. Parsippany, NJ: Dale Seymour/Pearson.
- [MMO] Deborah Schifter, Virginia Bastable, and Susan Jo Russell. (1999). *Making Meaning for Operations (Number and Operation, Part 2) Casebook*. Parsippany, NJ: Dale Seymour/Pearson.
- [MSP] Deborah Schifter, Virginia Bastable, and Susan Jo Russell, *Measuring Space in One, Two, and Three Dimensions Casebook*. Parsippany, NJ: Dale Seymour/Pearson, 2002.
- [RAO] Deborah Schifter, Virginia Bastable, Stephen Monk, Susan Jo Russell, Elham Kazemi. (2006). *Reasoning Algebraically about Operations (Number and Operations, Part 3) Casebook*. Parsippany, NJ: Dale Seymour/Pearson.
- Margaret Schwan Smith and Mary Kay Stein, Selecting and creating mathematical tasks, *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School* 3(5): 344–350, Feb 1998.

## Calendar

A tentative schedule with topics is given below (subject to updating).

	Date	Wk	Topic	Readings/Cases Due	HW Due
	Aug 21	1	Overview	none (RAO17 in class)	—
by	Aug 27	2.1	Defining	RAO5, Hall	R1*
by	Sep 02	2.2	Classroom norms; direct msmt.	Ball, MSP21	—
	Sep 08	3	Representations	Ferrini, Flores, RAO25,30	R2*
	Sep 15	4	Generalization and proof	RAO4,10,19,31,32	R3
	Sep 22	5	The arithmetic operations	—	R4*, (D5)
	<b>Sep 30</b>	6	Computational fluency; algorithms	Baek, BST16,17, RAO27, MMO25	Interview*
	<b>Oct 07</b>	7	Fractions & decimals	MMO18,19, Empson Ch.1	R5, (D7)
	<b>Oct 14</b>	8	Operating on fractions	MMO20,21,22, FDRP7	R6
	Oct 20	9	Dividing fractions	Kribs, MMO27,28	IDU
	Oct 27	10	Units and rational numbers	—	Case study*
	Nov 03	11	Problem solving	Smith & Stein, MMO21	R7
	Nov 10	12	Deconstructing & rescaling	Caulfield et al.	Lesson paper*
	Nov 17	13	Units in measurement	MSP18, Bush20	R8
	<b>Nov 25</b>	14	Geometry	EFS3,32,33, MSP10,11	R9, (D14)
	<b>Dec 02</b>	15	Measurement; assessment	MSP21,23,24, Bush36	R10, [Rewrite]
	<b>Dec 09</b>	16	Final presentations	—	—

Dates in bold indicate Tuesday meetings (still TH111). Asterisks \* denote assignments requiring interaction with students. Numbers in readings indicate case numbers or chapters. See bibliography for further details of readings.

## University Policies

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wwwb.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to dis-criminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence. I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. *Papers involving plagiarism will receive an indelible grade of zero.*

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

To obtain your NetID or for logon assistance, visit <https://webapps.uta.edu/oit/selfservice/>. If you are unable to resolve your issue from the Self-Service website, contact the Helpdesk at [helpdesk@uta.edu](mailto:helpdesk@uta.edu) or (817)272-2208.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Grade Grievances:** Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current graduate catalog.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

**Student Support Services:** UTA provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline by calling 817-272-6107, sending a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or visiting [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

## UTA COEHP POLICIES

### University Mission:

The mission of The University of Texas at Arlington is to pursue knowledge, truth and excellence in a student-centered academic community characterized by shared values, unity of purpose, diversity of opinion, mutual respect and social responsibility. The University is committed to lifelong learning through its academic and continuing education programs, to discovering new knowledge through research and to enhancing its position as a comprehensive educational institution with bachelor's, master's, doctoral and non-degree continuing education programs.

### College Mission:

The mission of the UTA College of Education is to develop and deliver educational programs that ensure the highest levels of teacher, administrator, and allied health science practitioner preparation and performance. As a recognized contributor to the fields of education and allied health science, the College engages in effective teaching, quality research, and meaningful service. The College is committed to diversity and to the advancement of active teaching and learning in all educational environments and at all levels.

### Core Values:

Diversity	Learner-Centered	Collaboration	Research-Based
Field Experience	Life-Long Learning	Excellence	Technology

### Conceptual Framework:

The work of the College of Education is grounded in constructivism as a theory of teaching and learning and is done in a spirit of expectation that all involved in the College of Education, whether candidate, faculty or administrator, will hold the following as important: *Excellence, Student-Centered Environments, Research, Collaboration, Diversity, Technology, Field Experiences and Life-Long Learning.*

*Partners for the Future* serves as the theme of the College of Education and epitomizes the understanding that it takes a village of partners to insure the future of education for all.

### Tk20

The College of Education and Health Professions is pleased to announce the adoption of Tk20, a comprehensive data management system that will provide us with powerful tools to manage our growth and streamline our processes to enable us to meet your needs more efficiently and effectively. As with other course materials, you will need to subscribe to the program for a one-time only, non-refundable cost of \$100. You may purchase your subscription online from a link provided on the system's website or from the UT Arlington Bookstore as you would a textbook or other course materials. Please visit <http://www.uta.edu/coehp/tk20> for more information.

### Professional Dispositions Statement

Each student/candidate in the College of Education and Health Professions of UT Arlington will be evaluated on Professional Dispositions by faculty and staff. These dispositions have been identified as essential for a highly-qualified professional. Instructors and program directors will work with students/candidates rated as "unacceptable" in one or more stated criteria. The student/candidate will have an opportunity to develop a plan to remediate any digressions.



## PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITIONS GUIDELINES

*The following Professional Dispositions Guidelines are to be followed by all students and candidates in COEHP. The standards referenced are those of the Texas Administrative Code.<sup>1</sup> Students and candidates are responsible for identifying and following professional standards and policies for their particular state.*

### A. **Professional Demeanor: TAC Standards 1.9, 1.10, 2.1 through 3.9**

- Demonstrates respect and consideration for the thoughts and feelings of others (diverse populations, school personnel, university personnel, PreK-16 students).
  - Demonstrates kindness, fairness, patience, dignity and respect in working with others.
  - Accepts decisions made by institutional authority.
  - Treats others in a just and equitable manner.
- Maintains composure and self-control.
  - Responds positively to constructive criticism.
  - Follows appropriate channels of communication/authority.
  - Reacts professionally (calm and patient) when under stressful situations.

### B. **Professional Practices: TAC Standards 1.1 through 3.9**

- Complies with class and program requirements
  - Attends classes, trainings, and field experiences.
  - Arrives on time and remains for the duration.
  - Is prepared, engaged, and meets deadlines.
- Demonstrates academic integrity and honesty.
- Maintains appropriate confidentiality at all times.
- Demonstrates compliance with all laws and regulations.
- Demonstrates compliance with University policies and Texas Education Agency (TEA)/professional specialty program area standards<sup>2</sup>

### C. **Professional Appearance: TAC Standards 1.7, 1.10, 2.5**

- Displays personal appearance and/or hygiene appropriate for professional settings.

### D. **Professional Language/Communication: TAC Standards 1.1, 1.7, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, 2.1, 2.3 through 2.5, 2.7, 3.1 through 3.6, 3.8, 3.9**

- Uses appropriate and professional language and conduct.
- Works effectively, collaboratively, and equitably with others.
- Receives feedback in a positive manner and makes necessary adjustments.
- Uses electronic and social media appropriately, e.g., texting, Facebook, Linked-In.
- Follows school and state regulations in electronic contacts made with PreK-12 students, parents, administrators, professors and others professionals.
- Uses UT Arlington email as official university form of electronic communication and information.
- Uses respectful electronic communication etiquette in course related materials and correspondence, such as in Blackboard and email.

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1 Texas Administrative Code, Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators can be found at:  
[http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?  
sl=R&app=9&p\\_dir=&p\\_rloc=&p\\_tloc=&p\\_ploc=&pg=1&p\\_tac=&ti=19&pt=7&ch=247&rl=2](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=7&ch=247&rl=2) .

2 Specialty areas as in KINE must access and follow their discipline-specific professional and ethical standards. Non-Texas residents are responsible to follow the guidelines for ethical behavior published by their home state.

## **AMLE Standards Alignment**

### **PRINCIPLE C: INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICE**

#### **Standard 4: Middle Level Instruction and Assessment**

Middle level teacher candidates understand, use, and reflect on the major concepts, principles, theories, and research related to data-informed instruction and assessment. They employ a variety of developmentally appropriate instructional strategies, information literacy skills, and technologies to meet the learning needs of all young adolescents (e.g., race, ethnicity, culture, age, appearance, ability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, family composition).

Element a. Content Pedagogy: Middle level teacher candidates use their knowledge of instruction and assessment strategies that are especially effective in the subjects they teach.

Element b. Middle Level Instructional Strategies: Middle level teacher candidates employ a wide variety of effective teaching, learning, and assessment strategies. They use instructional strategies and technologies in ways that encourage exploration, creativity, and information literacy skills (e.g., critical thinking, problem solving, evaluation of information gained) so that young adolescents are actively engaged in their learning. They use instruction that is responsive to young adolescents' local, national, and international histories, language/dialects, and individual identities (e.g., race, ethnicity, culture, age, appearance, ability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, family composition).

Element c. Middle Level Assessment and Data-informed Instruction: Middle level teacher candidates develop and administer assessments and use them as formative and summative tools to create meaningful learning experiences by assessing prior learning, implementing effective lessons, reflecting on young adolescent learning, and adjusting instruction based on the knowledge gained.

Element d. Young Adolescent Motivation: Middle level teacher candidates demonstrate their ability to motivate all young adolescents and facilitate their learning through a wide variety of developmentally responsive materials and resources (e.g., technology, manipulative materials, information literacy skills, contemporary media). They establish equitable, caring, and productive learning environments for all young adolescents.