The Conceptual Framework for Programs that Prepare Professionals Who Work in Schools

What - Why - and Why You?
• You are a student who is either preparing for a career as a professional who works in a school setting, or someone is already engaged in such work.

• Part of your professional development is to reflect on and develop your philosophy as a professional...
WHY YOU?

- As you develop your professional philosophy, you reflect on and answer questions such as . . .
  - What is important to me in my work?
  - What values do I uphold?
  - What beliefs and professional resources undergird my work?
What is NCATE Accreditation?

- Cal State Fullerton programs that prepare professionals who work in schools are NCATE accredited.
- What does this mean?
  - NCATE stands for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.
  - NCATE is the profession’s mechanism to help establish high quality teacher preparation. Through the process of professional accreditation of schools, colleges and departments of education, NCATE works to make a difference in the quality of teaching and teacher preparation today, tomorrow, and for the next century.
So What?

- Cal State Fullerton is the only NCATE accredited institution in Orange County and 1 of about only 23 (of about 120) credential-granting institutions in California with NCATE accreditation.
- “So what?” you ask.
  - Be proud that you attend an NCATE accredited institution! It’s a mark of the high quality of YOUR professional preparation!
  - CSU Fullerton is proud of its NCATE accredited status --- and the faculty work hard to maintain NCATE accreditation.
What is the Connection?

- NCATE requires each accredited institution to have a clearly developed philosophy --- just as you have, or will be asked to develop, your own philosophy about your profession.

- Our philosophy is called our CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK.

- It is based on a journey metaphor, comparing education to a journey that continually transforms all of us.
Our Conceptual Framework...

- Guides the work that we do (which is to prepare professionals to work in schools);
- Describes the values we uphold;
- Explains our beliefs and professional resources that undergird our work;
- Guides the outcomes we expect of our students; and
- Is a shared philosophy among students, professors, and our school partners.
Our Conceptual Framework...

- Consists of several elements that include
  - A vision statement
  - A mission statement
  - An underlying philosophy
  - Outcomes that we expect of our students (or “candidates” in NCATE language)
Our Vision Statement

We envision our community, taken in its broadest sense, to include our students, our education partners, and ourselves, as being on an educational journey that transforms us.

We are guided by questions, research, reflections, and discovery as we individually, collectively, and continually strive to transform and improve learning outcomes and advance educational achievement.

We are on a transformational journey toward educational advancement and achievement.
Our Mission Statement

Our mission is to teach, to serve, and to engage in scholarship.

We teach our students to be critical thinkers and lifelong learners.

We prepare professionals who improve student learning, promote diversity, make informed decisions, engage in collaborative endeavors, maintain professional and ethical standards, and become change agents in their workplaces.

We engage in scholarly work that informs the profession and we serve the educational community by providing applied scholarship.
Our Philosophy

Our vision and mission are based on 7 core values:

1. We value learning as a life-long journey that transforms us.
2. We value theory, research and the professional literature as guiding the learning process and informing professional practice.
3. We value responsibility to self and to the group.
4. We value diversity because it enriches the whole.
5. We value multiple pathways to learning that includes the use of technology.
6. We value critical inquiry and seeking necessary change.
7. We value authentic and reflective assessment.
Taken together, our philosophy, vision, and mission serve as the anchor of the 3 key learning goals or outcomes that we expect of candidates who complete our programs.
Learning Outcome 1

Our program completers are **Knowledgeable & Competent Specialists** who

- demonstrate strong foundation in subject matter;
- demonstrate strong understanding & implementation skills in the field; and
- demonstrate ability to use technology as a resource
Learning Outcome 2

Our program completers are *Reflective & Responsive Practitioners* who

- promote diversity;
- make informed decisions; and
- engage in collaborative endeavors; and
- think critically.
Learning Outcome 3

Our program completers are *Committed and Caring Professionals* who

• become change agents;

• maintain professional and ethical standards; and

• become life-long learners.
Reflecting on the Conceptual Framework

Choose one or more of the questions on the next six slides. Reflect on your answer and then share in small groups and/or with the entire class.
Considering Our Outcomes

*Knowledgeable & Competent Specialists*
*Reflective & Responsive Practitioners*
*Committed and Caring Professionals*

As a student (“candidate”) in one of our programs, how do these 3 outcomes... 

- relate to the learning goals and objectives in your course syllabus?
- relate to the assignments you are asked to complete in this course?
Considering Our Outcomes in Prerequisite Coursework

Knowledgeable & Competent Specialists
Reflective & Responsive Practitioners
Committed and Caring Professionals

How have your learning experiences in this course helped you think about what it means to be a professional who is …

– knowledgeable and competent
– reflective and responsive
– committed and caring

Conceptual Framework Presentation, 2006, Slide 19
Considering Our Outcomes in Credential Coursework

Knowledgeable & Competent Specialists
Reflective & Responsive Practitioners
Committed and Caring Professionals

- How do these outcomes influence how you think about your role as a developing professional?
- How do your master teachers or other school professionals demonstrate elements of these outcomes?
- How do you see credential program faculty modeling these outcomes?
Considering Our Outcomes in Graduate Coursework

Knowledgeable & Competent Specialists
Reflective & Responsive Practitioners
Committed and Caring Professionals

- How do these outcomes “live” in your professional practice? For example, how they influence how you interact with students, student teachers, other colleagues?
- As a result of your learning, how are you becoming more knowledgeable and competent, reflective and responsive, and committed and caring?
Considering Our Vision

*We are on a transformational journey toward educational advancement and achievement.*

How are you on “*a transformational journey toward educational advancement and achievement*”? 

Conceptual Framework Presentation, 2006, Slide 22
Considering Our Conceptual Framework

How does our conceptual framework reflect your professional philosophy?
For More Information

• National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education [http://www.ncate.org/](http://www.ncate.org/)
