

# Arkansas State University

Department of Teacher Education



Masters of Science in Education Programs  
in Early Childhood Education, Middle Level and Reading  
Conceptual Framework

## Strengthening Pedagogy

**Strengthening Pedagogy: The master's level candidates engage in strengthening pedagogy by providing leadership in the development, implementation and evaluation of learning experiences.**

*The master's level candidates strengthen pedagogy by:*

- Interpreting and applying appropriate theories and research which capitalize upon the developmental characteristics of all learners and supports instructional choices that will maximize student learning.
- Promoting a wide range of evidence-based instructional practices, including technology resources.
- Understanding the interdisciplinary nature of knowledge and making connections among content area curriculum and prior knowledge.
- Guiding critical dialogue of effective instructional practices which meet the varied needs of all learners.
- Mentoring other teachers through coaching techniques.
- Planning and implementing effective professional development for teachers.
- Sharing the research base, regardless of specialization, for the chosen curriculum and assessment methods.
- Promoting a student-centered, positive learning environment.

## Embracing Diversity

**Diversity:** The master's level candidates embrace diversity by creating a positive learning environment that reflects an in-depth understanding of the structural factors that impact the lives of students.

*The master's level candidates help all students learn by:*

- Understanding and demonstrating sensitivity to structural factors within society that affect the learning environment such as gender, race, social class, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, age, and religion.
- Developing strategies that build positive and productive relationships between schools, families, and communities.
- Planning, selecting materials, and creating classroom activities that reflect an in-depth understanding of multicultural education.
- Creating a learning environment that facilitates an ongoing discourse on issues of diversity that affect a school culture in order to meet the changing needs of all children.

## Reflective Decision Making

**Reflective Decision Making: The master's level candidates employ reflective decision making to enhance professional performance.**

*The master's level candidates will use reflective decision making by:*

- Determining the effectiveness of instructional practice through the appropriate use and selection of instructional assessments.
- Utilizing the evidence based rationale for strategies used to meet the needs of all learners.
- Determining the impact of student developmental and cultural background on readiness to learning.
- Evaluating their teaching practice using current research and theory
- Demonstrating a sense of efficiency through the application of reflection to practice

## Professional Community Collaboration

**Professional Community Collaboration: The master's level candidates demonstrate a commitment to the quality of education while improving skills critical to collaborating in professional communities which include family, school, and the broader community.**

*The master's level candidates will model appropriate professional community collaboration by:*

- Interpreting and applying appropriate theories and research needed to perform their professional roles and to keep abreast of the field's changing base.
- Demonstrating a high level of skill in identifying the human, material and technological resources necessary to be effective within their professional role.
- Understanding the influences derived from family, school, and the broader community and how these contexts affect children's learning and development.
- Interacting with families and the community to improve the lives of students.
- Demonstrating of flexible varied skills needed to work collaboratively and effectively with stakeholders in professional roles.
- Applying ethical guidelines to public policy and advocacy issues in order to promote more caring, just and equitable communities of service to students and families.
- Using abilities and opportunities to think strategically, build consensus, create change, and influence better outcomes for children, families, and the profession.