

School of Education Career Readiness Skills

Employers look for the skills listed below when hiring new graduates. Use the descriptions as a reference to select which skills you feel you have developed. Meet with your academic advisor and faculty mentor to discuss which classes to take and other opportunities to strengthen areas where you are missing or need more experience.

Adaptability:

Develop the ability to adjust one's behavior, mindset, and approach in response to changing circumstances while maintaining productivity and effectiveness.

- Adjust lesson plans or strategies when student needs change.
- Learn new classroom technologies, systems, or methods as needed.
- Stay calm and productive when schedules or classroom conditions shift.

Career & Self-Development:

Advance your career through continuous learning, self-awareness, exploring opportunities, and networking.

- Explore careers in teaching, counseling, leadership, or educational support.
- Identify strengths in communication, organization, empathy, or leadership.
- Use field experiences, mentorship, and feedback to refine career goals.

Communication:

Clearly and effectively exchange information, ideas, facts, and perspectives with people inside and outside an organization.

- Give clear directions and explanations to students and families.
- Listen actively to feedback from mentors, colleagues, and students.
- Adjust communication for children, parents, and school staff.

Critical Thinking:

Identify and respond to needs based on an understanding of situational context and a logical analysis of relevant information.

- Analyze student data and observations before making decisions.
- Evaluate evidence to choose effective teaching strategies.
- Revise lessons or supports based on feedback and outcomes.

Leadership:

Recognize and use personal and team strengths to achieve shared goals and support positive outcomes.

- Take initiative in classroom, practicum, or school-based projects.
- Motivate others through encouragement, preparedness, and professionalism.
- Support students and colleagues by helping teams stay focused on goals.

Professionalism:

Exhibit strong work habits, adapt to different organizational environments, and act in the best interest of the workplace and community.

- Arrive prepared and follow through on commitments.
- Demonstrate integrity and respect in school settings.
- Adapt to different classroom, school, and supervisory expectations.

Teamwork:

Build and maintain collaborative relationships to work effectively toward common goals while appreciating diverse viewpoints and shared responsibilities.

- Work effectively with mentor teachers, peers, and school staff.
- Respect different viewpoints and contribute to shared goals.
- Address conflict constructively and maintain positive working relationships.

Technology:

Understand and leverage technologies ethically to enhance efficiencies, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

- Use classroom technologies to support instruction and communication.
- Evaluate digital resources for accuracy, usefulness, and appropriateness.
- Use technology responsibly in teaching, planning, and collaboration.