

San Jose State University

Department of Special Education Disposition Policy

The following policy applies to all programs within the department of Special Education, College of Education at San Jose State University. Special Education teachers are expected to demonstrate average or above average performance of the fifteen dispositions identified by the Department of Special Education and recommended by the community partners (school districts, non-public schools and county offices of education).

Disposition Evaluation

Application to the Department of Special Education

Each applicant to the credential program or MA program completes a Self-Assessment of dispositions with the application packet, and each letter of recommendation is attached to a dispositions evaluation completed by each recommender.

Candidate Evaluation during the Education Specialist and MA Programs

The dispositions of each candidate in the Education Specialist credential and the MA programs will be evaluated on at least two occasions during each program (Preliminary, Level II, Clear, and MA programs) on the Disposition Evaluation form by the instructors of the courses. The schedule for the evaluation is as follows for the credential programs: (1) the instructor evaluates each candidate in EDSE 279 or EDSE 105, (2) the University Supervisor evaluates each candidate in the directed teaching course (EDSE 217A, EDSE 154, EDSE 217B, EDSE 217D) in the last semester of the program. The schedule for the evaluation is the following for the MA program: (1) the instructor evaluates each candidate in EDSE 285 and (2) the instructor evaluates each candidate in EDSE 220. In addition, any faculty member or administrative staff may complete a dispositions evaluation at any time.

Candidates in the Department of Special Education programs need to be evaluated as “yes” in each of the items on the Dispositions Evaluation. If a candidate receives a “no” in the evaluation of any disposition, he/she will be referred to the Department of Special Education’s Student Review Committee (SRC). The SRC members will discuss the issue and recommend either, 1.) the development and monitoring of an improvement plan, or 2.) disqualification from the Department of Special Education.

Any candidate in the Department of Special Education program who is determined to be disqualified from the program can appeal this decision by writing a letter to the Department Chair that provides rationale for the appeal. This will be referred to the Student Review Committee for review and for a determination about the actions as result of the appeal. If the appeal is denied, the candidate will be disqualified from the Department but retain the right to appeal this result via other university appeal processes. If that appeal is approved, the candidate can continue in the Department of Special Education with an improvement plan.