



Compliance Report
For
Southern Methodist University
Traditional Undergraduate Teacher Certification Program
March 17-18, 2010

The Texas Education Agency administers Texas Administrative Code rules required by the Texas legislature for the regulation of all educator preparation programs in the state. Please see the complete Texas Administrative Code rules at www.tea.state.tx.us for details contained in each rule.

A continuing approval visit of the traditional undergraduate teacher certification program of Southern Methodist University (SMU) was conducted on March 17-18, 2010 by Texas Education Agency (TEA) program specialists Dr. Mary S. Black and Mixon Henry in compliance with Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 228.10 (c).

Information concerning compliance with Texas Administrative Code rules governing educator preparation programs was collected by various qualitative means. TEA sent electronic surveys to all student teachers, faculty, advisory committee members, program staff members, field supervisors, cooperating, and campus principals connected with the SMU educator certification program. A total of 68 surveys were returned: 14 from student teachers; 7 from advisory committee members; 12 from faculty; 2 from program staff; 6 from field supervisors; 16 cooperating teachers; and 11 from campus principals. In addition a review of documents, syllabi, and a curriculum correlation chart provided evidence regarding compliance. A self-report was submitted to TEA by Southern Methodist University on February 15, 2010. Qualitative methods of content analysis, cross-referencing, and triangulation were used to evaluate the evidence.

COMPONENT I: GOVERNANCE OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS-- Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.20

Findings:

Southern Methodist University is in compliance with TAC §228.20 regarding governance or advisory committees for educator preparation programs. The advisory committee was newly constituted in the fall of 2009 to meet TAC rule concerning representative constitution. Previously only SMU faculty functioned as the advisory committee. Sign-in sheets from meetings on December 7, 2009 and February 9, 2010, the self-report, and electronic surveys returned to TEA by

advisory committee (AC) members indicate that the AC has 9 representatives from various nearby school districts, business and community, the Education Service Center, and the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development at SMU. Advisory committee minutes and agendas show that the group has met twice during the current academic year to discuss elements of design, delivery and evaluation of the program. Fifteen faculty members attended the Opening Session of the monitoring visit, including the Department Chair, Dr. Jill Allor, and the Dean, Dr. David Chard.

Based on the evidence presented above, Southern Methodist University traditional undergraduate teacher certification is in compliance with TAC 228.20.

COMPONENT II. ADMISSION CRITERIA - Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §227.10

Findings:

Southern Methodist University is in compliance with TAC §227.10 regarding admission criteria. Test scores in student folders reveal that SMU requires incoming students to score 260 or above on the reading section of the THEA in addition to having a 2.5 GPA in order to qualify for admission to teacher preparation. No candidates are admitted with less than a 2.5 GPA. Students complete an application for admission with short, timed, written essays. Each applicant is interviewed by an advisor from the School of Education prior to admission, and applicants must submit letters of reference and a background check. International students must also pass the TOEFL exam.

Based on the evidence presented above, Southern Methodist University is in compliance with TAC §227.10.

COMPONENT III. EDUCATOR PREPARATION CURRICULUM -- Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.30

Findings:

Southern Methodist University is in compliance with TAC §228.30 concerning required curriculum for educator preparation. SMU submitted a chart titled *Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Course Correlation TAC §228.30* to TEA which outlines how each required course meets the standards for teaching the 17 mandated curriculum topics in TAC §228.30. SMU also submitted a document titled *SMU Competency Matrix by Division* which lists the course, PPR standards, competencies and domains, the SMU Department of Teaching and Learning Conceptual Framework reference, and the reference to TAC §228.30 (1)-(17).

Program specialists reviewed syllabi for each course during the document review. Each syllabus clearly states the standards, domains and competences covered in the course. Appropriate TEKS are included for content specific courses. The SMU teacher preparation program requires one three-semester course on formative and summative assessment, and the university requires all students to pass one three-semester course in technology in order to graduate. Two courses in literacy instruction in the School of Education also require 15 clock hours of field-based experience during which candidates work one-on-one with struggling K-12 readers. A specific course on Adolescent Development and Cognition is required for those candidates seeking secondary certification, in addition to a course on Educational Psychology that all students must take.

Based on the evidence presented above, Southern Methodist University is in compliance with TAC §228.30.

COMPONENT IV: PROGRAM DELIVERY AND ONGOING SUPPORT -- PREPARATION PROGRAM COURSEWORK AND/OR TRAINING -- Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.35

Findings:

Southern Methodist University is in compliance with TAC §228.35, which concerns program hours, field experiences and teaching practicum. According to the program hours chart submitted to TEA, Southern Methodist University offers 413 clock hours of educator preparation coursework prior to student teaching. In addition, three levels of field-based experience are required for all candidates. Candidates must be involved in structured field-based experiences in the Dallas Independent School District (DISD) for two hours per week for 16 weeks for each of the three semesters prior to student teaching, for a total of 96 clock hours of field experience. In Level I field experience, candidates observe and analyze whole school structure. In Level II, the focus is on special populations. Candidates shadow one teacher for the semester in Level III. SMU clinical faculty is in the field with candidates during these field-based experiences, and candidates receive grades and course credit.

Cooperating teachers are assigned to each student teacher, according to the self-report, a list of assignments found in the document review, and surveys returned by cooperating teachers and student teachers. Cooperating teachers receive a handbook from SMU, and DISD provides training in mentoring novice teachers to all cooperating teachers. All student teachers are traditionally placed in DISD due to a long-standing relationship between the district and the university. This insures diverse settings and various teaching conditions for student teachers. SMU clinical faculty serve as field supervisors. Typically they meet together once or twice a month to discuss issues concerning the practicum. Agendas and minutes for these meetings were reviewed by program specialists during the document review. SMU requires four formal observations

of student teachers during the practicum. Each observation lasts at least 45 minutes, and field supervisors share their evaluations and written feedback with candidates immediately after the event. SMU field supervisors email copies of the evaluations to campus principals or leave a copy with the campus administrator's secretary.

Based on the evidence presented above, Southern Methodist University is in compliance with TAC §228.35.

Commendations: Southern Methodist University offers significantly more hours of preparation and field experience than required by state mandate. In addition, SMU provides student teachers with twice as much field supervision and observation as mandated, thus greatly increasing support to novice teachers.

COMPONENT V. PROGRAM EVALUATION - ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATION AND PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT.-- Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.40 -

Findings:

Southern Methodist University is in compliance with TAC 228.40 concerning assessment of candidates and the overall program. Candidates are assessed prior to admission and continually while they are enrolled in the program. Clinical faculty assess candidate behavior and understanding during field experiences and student teaching. Candidates meet with college advisors each semester for degree plan checks. Candidates also sign a contract and a professional fitness statement prior to student teaching stating expectations for student teachers during the practicum. In addition candidates are required to pass content exams and the PPR exam prior to the practicum.

According to the self-report, advisory committee surveys and advisory committee minutes and agendas, the program is evaluated by the advisory committee and others once a year using TExES scores, student teacher surveys and candidate retention and rehire statistics. Curriculum is kept up to date and revised according to new rules from TEA. Student records are retained for a minimum of five years in a safe location.

Based on the evidence presented above, Southern Methodist University is in compliance with TAC 228.40.

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

Program Compliance Recommendations are based on the findings of the Texas Education Agency continuing approval visit. If the program is out of compliance with any component, please consult the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) rules and correct the issue IMMEDIATELY. General Recommendations are suggestions for program improvement only. Failure to comply with TAC rules governing educator preparation programs may result in action by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) per TAC 229 beginning in 2010.

PROGRAM COMPLIANCE RECOMMENDATIONS: None. Southern Methodist University is in compliance with all Texas Administrative Code rules at this time.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS: None.