

**Texas Education Agency Division of Educator Standards  
Post Approval Site Visit**

***Wayland Baptist University  
1900 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Plainview, TX  
March 26-27, 2009***

***Visit Conducted by TEA Staff:  
Tabita Gutierrez and Dr. Mary Black, Program Specialists***

**Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 228.10 (b) Educator Preparation Program  
Approval Process**

**Background:**

Wayland Baptist University (WBU) is a private, church-related, coeducational university which began in 1909. The Don Williams School of Education currently has 303 students divided among three teaching sites: Plainview (168 face-to-face students), Lubbock (101 face-to-face students), and San Antonio (25 face-to-face students) plus nine Trade and Industrial Education students enrolled in an online program. The various teaching sites serve the needs of different types of students. Both the Lubbock and San Antonio sites focus on adult learners seeking elementary certification and offer evening classes only. The Plainview home campus offers a traditional undergraduate program leading to teacher certifications at all levels. WBU has a 98% pass rate on the TExES test.

The program has 12 full-time professors serving the three locations, as well as numerous adjunct faculty. All 12 professors plus 28 Advisory Council members were present at the Opening Session. Members from Lubbock drove to Plainview for the meeting, while members in San Antonio attended via live video tele-conference.

Prior to the TEA visit, Wayland Baptist University submitted a self-report which addressed all required components.

**Number and Roles of People Interviewed:**

Thirty-eight people were interviewed by the Program Specialists. Interviewees included six Advisory Committee members, seven faculty members including the Dean, four principals, eight Cooperating Teachers, nine Student Teachers, two Field Supervisors, and two Program Staff.

## **I. Entity Commitment and Collaboration**

### **Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.20 Governance of Educator Preparation Programs**

#### **Findings:**

The Wayland Baptist University Don Williams School of Education has an integrated two-tiered Advisory Council system. The first tier is system-wide and includes area superintendents, principals, ESC representatives, and community representatives. The second tier is at the campus level and includes faculty, university advisors, student services, and local independent school district personnel. Both groups meet at least three times annually.

WBU's governance constitution regulates the two-tiered system and defines the roles. The system-wide committee serves as a forum for larger regional needs, while the campus committees serve as local admissions' committees, analyze TExES data, and recommend students for licensure. Both tiers of the Advisory Council meet together at least once per year, and other times as necessary, to discuss program-wide issues, such as the addition of certification fields.

Meeting agendas and schedules show a systematic approach to collaboration. Advisory Council minutes demonstrated clearly what issues were discussed by whom and what action was taken at each meeting.

**Wayland Baptist University is in compliance with TAC §228.20.**

#### **Commendations**

- The two-tiered Advisory Council is truly collaborative, with roles clearly defined, and specific tasks

## **II. Admission Criteria**

### **Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 227.10 Admission Criteria**

#### **Findings:**

Admission policies at WBU meet or exceed all state requirements. A GPA of 2.7 is required, as well as a score of 260 or higher on the reading section of the THEA and 230 on the math and writing sections. Equivalent scores are used for the Accuplacer. Students seeking certification in Special Education also complete an individual interview with the professor in that area. In addition, all applicants must submit a short autobiography which is discussed by the local campus Advisory Committee prior to admission.

Recruitment strategies are varied at WBU. Word of mouth, attendance at job fairs, and scholarships bring in the majority of students. Wayland has a good reputation in the community, and many alumni send their children to the university. In addition, WBU has an articulated agreement with South Plains Community College, which has four locations in the surrounding area, so that community college students can seamlessly be admitted into WBU for their upper division work. Recent contacts with teacher aides and special education aides in nearby districts have also added to enrollment.

**Wayland Baptist University is in compliance with TAC §227.10.**

**Commendations**

- Admission standards are higher than state required minimum.
- Advisory Councils approve applicant admissions
- Student files are maintained at a high standard

**III. Curriculum**

**Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.30 Educator Preparation Curriculum**

**Findings:**

Wayland Baptist University currently includes all 17 PPR topics in their instruction. They teach three different codes of ethics: the Wayland Code of Conduct, the National Education Association Code of Ethics and the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics and Standards. Each of these documents is included in the Student Handbook. According to the self-report, all university courses are aligned with the TExES framework. Alignment of curriculum between university campuses occurs during the annual retreat when both Advisory Council tiers meet together. A formal process is in place to modify courses and syllabi in order to maintain consistency across campuses.

The only complaint from students who were interviewed concerned courses for secondary certification. Students suggested that these courses might be modified to incorporate more examples and strategies from secondary teaching situations.

**Wayland Baptist University is in compliance with TAC §228.30.**

**Commendations**

- Formal process for curriculum alignment and course modifications across campuses
- Focus on code of ethics

#### **IV. Program Delivery and Evaluation**

##### **Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228. 35 Preparation Program Coursework and/or Training**

##### **Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 228. 40 Assessment and Evaluation of Candidates for Certification and Program Improvement**

##### **Findings:**

The majority of courses are delivered face-to-face, even though limited online courses do exist. Field-based experience is a significant and integral component of the WBU teacher preparation program. From 45 to 94 clock hours of field-based experience before student teaching is required, depending on certification field. Field-based experiences are structured, moving from reflective observation, to one-on-one tutoring, to small group tutoring and presentations, to whole class presentations, and finally to student teaching.

Students are placed in diverse settings for both field experience and student teaching. Field experiences are typically in Title I schools. Teacher candidates in Plainview experience rural schools situated in community school environments while candidates in Lubbock and San Antonio interact with students in largely urban settings. Additionally, the campuses in Lubbock and San Antonio have developed collaborative experiences with private schools, women's shelters, and charter schools.

Formative assessment occurs in each of the professional development courses. Summative course data, certification test exam data, field experience data, student teaching evaluations and portfolios are used to determine the quality of the program each year. WBU has used this data to modify and align courses and reshape field experiences.

**Wayland Baptist University is in compliance with TAC §228.40.**

##### **Commendations**

- Structured Field Experiences and Student Teaching in diverse settings
- Formative and summative assessment in each course
- Data used to modify courses

#### **V. On-Going Support**

##### **Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 228.35 (f) On-going Educator Program Support**



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### **Findings:**

WBU holds a training orientation each semester for Cooperating Teachers, Field Supervisors, and Student Teachers together. All eight Cooperating Teachers interviewed said they had attended and were adequately trained for their responsibilities. WBU maintains signed contracts for all Cooperating Teachers and has their vitas on file. This creates a strong partnership between Cooperating Teachers and the University.

The Field Supervisor makes a minimum of six visits to the Student Teacher each semester. Students Teachers interviewed reported seeing their Field Supervisor anywhere from twice a week to once every two weeks. A minimum of four observations with written evaluations are required. Student Teachers get a variety of frequent feedback from Field Supervisors and feel comfortable with the support from the University.

**Wayland Baptist University is in compliance with TAC §228.30.**

### **Commendations:**

- Field Supervision is above state requirements
- Cooperating Teacher contracts and vitas maintained

### **Overall Program Recommendations:**

- Strengthen courses for students seeking secondary certification to give more secondary examples, strategies, and teaching methods.