



Educational Diagnostician Program Handbook



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Department of Teaching & Learning
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www.smu.edu/teacher



Welcome to the Educational Diagnostician Program in the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development. Our goal is to grow and nurture you, our students, so that you become confident, skillful, and successful educational diagnosticians who can help identify students with special learning needs and support teachers in instruction in any district or school in which you choose to teach.

Our mission is to support your development as an educational diagnostician so that you accurately identify students, develop individualized instructional programs, prioritize equity and are rooted in collaborate with families and colleagues. Placing students at the center means that you will respond to both the academic and emotional needs of students by making instructional decisions that are grounded in the best of research and practice.

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Introduction

Conceptual Framework

WHAT IS AN EDUCATIONAL DIAGNOSTICIAN

The Educational Diagnostician certification is a state-approved Student Services certification intended to prepare the highest caliber professionals that possess the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the performance of the diverse student population in Texas. The

The Department of Teaching and Learning includes educators and diagnosticians dedicated

committed to creating a variety of creative learning environments

Criminal History Background Checks

In 2007, The Texas legislature passed a law (Senate Bill 9) requiring individuals working on public school campuses to submit a criminal history check. All students are required to submit to a criminal history background check prior to going on any EC-12 campus. The experience during any term.

At the time of application for the Standard Texas Teaching Certificate, each applicant will submit his/her fingerprints to the Texas Education Agency for a criminal history check by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Effective fall 2011, a conduct report will be requested from Student Life by the School of Education for each student who is applying to the Educator Preparation program, and an updated report will be requested when the students apply to student teach.

The School of Education reserves the right to deny or revoke admission to the Simmons School of Education and Human Development, Department of Teaching and Learning Educator Preparation program to any individual who has been convicted, received probation, or received deferred adjudication of crimes that involve violence or crimes against children.

An educational diagnostician candidate who has ever had an arrest that resulted in deferred adjudication, probation, or a conviction should be aware of the possible consequences related to the offense. If there are questions, he/she may contact the Certification Officer to discuss the potential ramifications.

At the time of application for the Standard Texas Teaching Certificate, each applicant will submit his/her fingerprints to the Texas Education Agency for a criminal history check by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

For Frequently Asked Questions National Criminal History Background Check please go to: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=5844>

Information about the optional Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation is given to applicants during the application process. For full information, visit <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/investigations/preliminary-criminal-history-evaluation-faqs>

Faculty & Supporting Staff

Department of Teaching and Learning

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Director of Diagnostician: Dr. Christine Woodbury

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Requirements & Expectations

Disability Accommodations

Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first be registered with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Students may call 214-768-1470 or visit <http://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/DASS> to begin the process. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements.

Religious Observance

Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (See University Policy No. 1.9.)

Program Requirements

Diagnostician program

EDU6370 Diagnostic Assessment I

EDU6371 Diagnostic Assessment II

EDU6373 Bilingual Assessment or bilingual assessment for monolingual

EDU 6323 Literacy Assessment

EDU6372 Practicum

EDU63576

Site supervisor (SS): The SS is the practicing Educational Diagnostician/LSSP and mentor you have identified on campus to support your learning. Your SS works with you to structure practical experiences within the school context that enable you to meet the requirements outlined in this syllabus.

University Field Supervisor (FS): The FS is the university field supervisor who oversees your practicum and provides formal and ongoing candidate support. The FS has a valid certification as an Educational Diagnostician or is a current Licensed Specialist in School Psychology and has completed the TEA approved

Students must complete their placement in a TEA accredited school district/public charter, or a private school accredited by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission (TEPSAC). In preparation for the placement, it is recommended that the candidate identify a possible site. The candidate is welcome to make preliminary contact with practicum sites; however, the faculty supervisor is ultimately responsible for approving the site. In selecting field experience sites, the faculty supervisor, in cooperation with the prospective candidate, places considerable importance on the availability and cooperation of a certified educational diagnostician qualified to assume the role of the cooperating educational diagnostician or LSSP, as well as the quality of the experiences offered. Students are encouraged to reach out to the special education leadership in the district in which they are employed. Students not currently employed in a school district, charter school, or accredited private school are encouraged to begin the process of securing a site early in the program.

In order to be an approved site, the site must agree to the following: e practicum program.

Allow the candidate to observe the site supervisor (or other assigned Diagnostician or LSSP) engaged in various activities related to the Diagnostician standards, such as consent meetings, REED meetings, IEP team meetings, and testing.

Allow the candidate to engage in activities related to all 10 Diagnostician standards, including direct assessment of students and report writing.

FIELD SUPERVISOR QUALIFICATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Field supervisor (FS) will provide the candidate with informal and structural ongoing guidance and support. All the SMU FS meet the following qualifications:

- Have completed TEA approved observation training
- Hold current/valid certification as an Educational Diagnostician licensure or valid/current licensure as a Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP)
- Have at least three years of experience functioning as a Diagnostician or LSSP.

Initial contact with the candidate (which may be made by telephone, email, or other electronic communication) will occur within the first three weeks of the

- _Draft ARDmeeting reports for the review of IEP.
- _Reviewthe CHCognitive processingareasto assistwith determiningthe best practices for student learning; then lead a faculty discussion of the application of the theory to improve student learning.
- _Communicatewith related servicespersonnel(counselor,physicaltherapy, occupational therapy, special transportation, school nurse).
- _ReviewPIEMSAactivity fund accountingprocedures.
- _Reviewthe coding of students enrolled in specialeducation(ex: 45=PPCD40 = Inclusion).
- _Reviewtechnologies,including assistivetechologies,availableto support the needsof students enrolled in the special education program.
- _PrepareARDnoticesfor parents,schoolstaff and related servicespersonnel.

Domain	Domain Title	Standards Assessed
I	Students with Disabilities	V, VII
II	Assessment and Evaluation	IV, VI
III	Curriculum and Instruction	IX, X
IV	Foundations and Professional Roles and Responsibilities	I-III, VIII

Educational Diagnostician Standards

I.	The educational diagnostician understands and applies knowledge of the purpose, philosophy, and legal foundations of evaluation and special education.
II.	The educational diagnostician understands and applies knowledge of ethical and professional practices, roles, and responsibilities.
III.	The educational diagnostician develops collaborative relationships with families, educators, the school, the community, outside agencies, and related service personnel.
IV.	The educational diagnostician understands and applies knowledge of student assessment and evaluation, program planning, and instructional decisionmaking.

Academic Integrity

Exit Policy

The state requires all educator preparation programs to have an exit policy for the dismissal

Personal Information

The information presented in this handbook is accurate at the time of printing; however, policies are subject to change based on University, Simmons School and state guidelines. Check with an adviser before making a major decision based on the contents of this handbook.

Student Identification Number

The University assigns each student a nine-digit identification number. This number is used for all university records and is used to identify the student in all university systems.

Advising for Enrollment

All students admitted to the Educational Leadership program are expected to meet with their advisers each term. Students may make an appointment to visit with their adviser anytime during the academic year.

Schedules for each term are posted and updated on the Department of Teaching and Learning website according to the University schedule. This schedule will always have the most current information.

Before the enrollment date, advisers will give permission to students based on their current work plan. If students need to alter their work plan, they must see their adviser.

Students enrolling in their Practicum will receive permission from their adviser. Permission will be granted after all criteria, including testing and coursework, for the practicum has been fulfilled.

Withdrawal from Program

Students withdrawing from the program must complete an exit form. If the student does not enroll in any education courses for three consecutive terms, his/her file will become inactive.

Student Files/Records

It is the policy of Simmons School of Education and Human Development, Department of Teaching and Learning to retain all student files for five years as per the Texas Administrative Code Rule §228.40

Testing

Texas Examinations of Educator Standards (TExES)

The TExES tests are criterion-referenced examinations designed to measure a candidate's knowledge in relation to an established criterion rather than to the performance of other candidates.

State Examinations Required for Diagnostician:

TExES #253 Educational Diagnostician

Official information concerning testing for Diagnostician Certification

Pearson Education is the administrator of TExES exams.

<http://www.texasexams.com>

Texas Diagnostician Certification

Applying for Educator Certification from the Texas Education Agency

1. Demonstrate content and professional knowledge through the completion of education coursework (content and professional education) with satisfactory GPA and graduate
2. Demonstrate content and professional skills and dispositions through the completion of Practicum
3. Demonstrate content and professional knowledge, skills, and dispositions through passing state certification exams

After all the above requirements have been completed, degrees conferred (this could take up to 4 weeks), and the students are in good standing with the University, SMU will recommend them for standard certification.

Prior to applying to take the TExES Educational Diagnostician (253), students are expected to complete all pre-requisite courses and benchmark requirements for the certification. Information about the TExES #253 link was provided earlier in document. The faculty advisor/Program Director will notify the Certification Office when you are approved to take the TExES 253.

Students will need to follow the procedures for fingerprinting as required by the state. Once the student has been notified that the recommendation has been sent, student will be able to apply for a five-year standard certificate (fee required) and initiate the criminal background check through the fingerprinting process (fee required). Once the student applies for the standard certification from the Texas Education Agency and initiates the criminal background check, SMU will recommend the student. Follow the instructions on the SBE website for fingerprinting. (<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/certification>). Diagnostician Certification is not complete without the application, fees, and the fingerprinting being processed.

Students can download a copy of their Standard Educator Certificate from their TEAECOS profile or go to <https://secure.sbec.state.tx.us/SBECONLINE/virtcert.asp>.

Laws & Associations

Important public laws that pre-service and professional educators must know:

Texas Laws

Education Code Title 2. Public Education Subtitle D. Chapter 21. Educators
<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.21.htm>

TAC Title 19 Education, Part

Diagnostician Associations in Texas

It is important Educational Diagnosticians are aware of the following professional groups:

[Council for Exceptional Children \(CEC\)](#)

[Council for Educational Diagnostics Services \(CEDDS\)](#)

[National Certification of Educational Diagnosticians \(NCEd\) \(NCED\)](#)

[Texas Educational Diagnostician Association \(TXEDA\)](#)

[Statewide Evaluation Personnel \(SWEP\)](#)

Complaint Procedures for Students

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) governs several boards and operates under the rules and regulations called the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). In order to file a complaint, one must be in accordance with TAC Chapter 228.70 Complaints and Investigations (b) (4).

No matter what the nature of the complaint, step 1 is to contact the Program Director of the Educator Preparation Program (EPP) in Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development and if requested, to submit the complaint in writing.

Types of Complaints:

Diagnostician Program

If the complaint is in regard to any aspect of the program or anyone associated with the program, once the Diagnostician program director has heard and received the written submission describing the complaint, the Diagnostician program director will review it and respond within two weeks with a resolution.

Pearson Testing Service

If the complaint is in regard to any aspect of TExES test registration, administration, scoring, etc., once the EPP committee has heard and received the written submission, the committee will review it and respond within two weeks with a resolution or instructions for contacting the testing service.

State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) / TEA

If the complaint is in regard to any aspect of state certification requirements or anyone associated with SBEC/TEA, once the EPP committee has heard and received the written submission, the committee will review it and respond within two weeks with a resolution or instructions for directing the complaint to the appropriate department/persons.