STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT PROGRAM SUMMARY FORM SU 2018 - SU 2020

Degree and Program Name: Special Education- MS in Ed.

Graduate Program

Submitted By: Dr. Kathryn Havercroft, Chair

Dr. Melissa Jones, Graduate Coordinator

Please complete a separate worksheet for each academic program (major, minor) at each level (undergraduate, graduate) in your department. Worksheets are due to CASA this year by October 15, 2020. Worksheets should be sent electronically to kjsanders@eiu.edu and should also be submitted to your college dean. For information about assessment or help with your assessment plans, visit the Assessment webpage at http://www.eiu.edu/~assess/ or contact Karla Sanders in CASA at 581-6056.

PART ONE:

What Are the Learning Objectives?	How, Where, & When Are they Assessed?	What Are the Expectations?	What Are the Results?	Committee/Perso n Responsible? How Are Results Shared?
1. Critical thinking,	Critical thinking and knowledge of	All candidates	Grades earned in "Core	Results are shared
problem solving, and	issues is addressed in SPE 5120	enrolled will	Courses'' –	through rubrics
research skills: all	"Current Issues in Special	meet knowledge		used to grade
candidates will develop	Education" and knowledge of	base	SPE 5120	products, final
thorough course work	research methodology is assessed in	expectations	Fall 2018	course grades, and
knowledge and	SPE 5900 "Research in Special	("B") or exceed	A n=4	communication
understanding of the	Education". These skills are also	expectations	B n=3	conveying written
issues and research in	assessed by the departmental	("A") in SPE	C n=4	exam results and
Special Education. (EIU	Issues/Research comprehensive	5120 and SPE	D n=1	evaluative
Graduate Outcome (2	exam which all candidates must	5900.		comments.
and 4)	successfully complete.		Fall 2019	Performance data
			A n=5	is analyzed by the
			B n=8	Department
			C n=2	Curriculum
				Committee (DCC)
			SPE 5900	
			Summer 2018	Committee/Person
			A n=11	Responsible:
			B n=4	
				Chair, Graduate
			Fall 2018	Coordinator,

Every candidate, to earn the M.S. degree in Special Education, must pass a written comprehensive exam elements of the rubric. "Issue" paper are provided in the attachments. Across the 18 Issues/Research comprehensive written exams taken in SU 18-SU 20, 18 of 18
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specific to content and concepts	the candidate	received a rating of 3 (Meets) or above on the rubric element	
covered across the core courses	will demonstrate		
(SPE 5120 and SPE 5900). The	critical thinking	related to Critical	
exam requires candidates to read a	and problem-	Thinking/Problem Solving.	
provided article and identify	solving skills.	The number of candidates	
various elements of the research	Candidates must	receiving each rating level	
study (i.e. problem examined in the	earn a "3" or	follows:	
study, hypotheses, sample, research	above which	Consistently Exceeds n=3	
design, procedures used in the	indicates	Sometimes Exceeds n=4	
study, dependent and independent	"meeting" or	Meets n=11	
variables, the statistical analyses	"exceeding"	Inconsistently Meets=0	
employed, the results and	standards.	Does Not Meet=0	
conclusions) and discuss the value			
or lack of value of the results for a		The rubric used to score	
special educator and/or the broader		comprehensive written exams	
field of special education. Each		is provided in the attachments.	
candidate must then synthesize the			
research surrounding the issue on			
which the article was focused and			
reflect on his/her own position,			
providing research supporting it.			
Problem solving and application of			
research are required to determine			
and support the candidate's			
position as does the application of			
the findings to one's own setting.			
the mange to one sown setting.			
Each candidate is required in the	It is expected	Candidates completing the	
research course (SPE 5900) to read	that candidates	Research Proposal earned the	
and evaluate scientifically based	meet or exceed	following Overall ratings:	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		tonowing Overan ratings:	
research and must design a	standards as	C.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
research study (Research Proposal)	defined by the	Summer 2018	
which could be implemented within	elements of the	Consistently Exceeds n=7	
a school or the larger field.	rubric used to	Exceeds Some Standards n=5	
	assess the	Meets n=3	
		Inconsistently Meets=0	

	"Research	Does Not Meet=0	
	Proposal."		
		Fall 2018	
		Exceeds Some Standards n=1	
		Spring 2020	
		Consistently Exceeds n=1	
		Consistently Execus II—1	
		Summer 2020	
		Consistently Exceeds n=13	
		Exceeds Some Standards n=7	
		Meets n=6	
		Inconsistently Meets=0	
		Does Not Meet=0	
		The rubric and the data charts	
		for the Research Proposal are	
		provided in the attachments.	
Candidates completing the M.S. in	The	The candidates completing	
Special Education are rated by	Dispositional	their degree SU 18-SU20 were	
faculty on a dispositional survey in	survey will	rated by faculty at the end of	
terms of their ability to think	reflect that	their programs on their	
critically and apply problem	candidates	Critical Thinking/Problem-	
solving skills	"Meet" or	Solving Skills. Aggregate	
	"Exceed" the	ratings are as follows:	
	standard related to the Problem-	Exceeds n=14	
	Solving and	Meets n=4	
	Critical	Does Not Meet n=0	
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			Thinking learning objective		
2.	Depth of Content Knowledge: graduating majors have a comprehensive knowledge base of the issues, research, and practices of Special Education. (EIU Graduate Outcome 1)	The Graduate Outcome "Depth of Content Knowledge" includes in its description "application of theory into practice." While all graduate candidate assignments/ assessments require application of knowledge, it is in the field experiences that candidates' ability to relate theory to practice is authentically assessed. Graduate candidates complete a practicum course, SPE 5770. A required component of the field experience is the expectation that candidate's experience is outside their classroom and diverse from their current role.	It is expected that candidates meet or exceed standards as defined by the elements of the rubric used to assess the fieldwork or field experience activities. A 3.0 or above on a 5.0 scale reflects standards are met (or exceeded).	The SPE 5770 project requires the completion of a field experience project that relates research to practice; 9 candidates completed this research project 2018-2020. Consistently Exceeds n=2 Exceeds Some Standards n=4 Meets n=2 Inconsistently Meets n=1 The Rubric and data charts for the SPE 5770 field experience assessment are provided in attachments.	Results are shared through rubrics used to grade products, final course grades, and communication conveying written exam results and evaluative comments. Licensure exam results are sent directly to the candidate as well as to the College. Performance data is analyzed by the Department Curriculum Committee (DCC)
		Each candidate to graduate must complete a written comprehensive exam or write a thesis. During this assessment period no candidates have completed a thesis. The comprehensive exam question requires that the candidate successfully demonstrate a depth of content knowledge specific to the topic of the exam.	On the written comprehensive exams, candidates will demonstrate "depth of content knowledge" meeting or exceeding the standards by earning a rating of 3 or above.	The SPE 5120/5900 Issues/Research Comprehensive Exam question requires the ability to consume (analyze) and synthesize research, utilizing a candidate's depth of knowledge to apply the findings to his or her own practice.	Committee/Person Responsible: Graduate Coordinator, Graduate Faculty, Advisors, and Chair

is	The required comprehensive exam is a combination of an Issues (5120) and Research (SPE 5900) exam.		All candidates who completed the SPE 5120/5900 Issues/Research comprehensive exam between Summer 2018 and end of Summer semester 2020 passed the exam. Two were successful on the first attempt, 11 required a minor revision, and 5 needed more substantive revisions before successfully completing the exam.	
v I a is a	If the candidate is seeking an MS with a Learning Behavior Specialist II (LBS II) or SPE Director (DIR) advanced credential, the candidate is expected to pass the appropriate advanced licensure test demonstrating content knowledge.	Related to advanced licensure for those candidates seeking an additional credential (e.g. LBS II or SPE DIR), a score of 240 indicates "Passing"	Across the time frame from Summer 2018-Summer 2020, 15 of 15 candidates who took an advanced licensure test through the state earned a passing score demonstrating their depth of content knowledge.	
S fi	Candidates completing their M.S. SU 2018-SU 2020 were rated by faculty on a dispositional survey relative to demonstration of content knowledge.	The Dispositional Survey will reflect that candidates "Meet" or "Exceed" the standard related	The candidates completing their degree SU 18-SU20 were rated by faculty at the end of their programs on their Depth of Content Knowledge. Aggregate ratings are as follows:	

(EIU Graduate Outcome 3)	Major papers: SPE 5120 (Issues) and SPE 5900 (Research)	Candidates will demonstrate writing competence in two major papers: an Issues paper and	candidates received the following ratings: Consistently Exceeds n=4 Exceeds Some Standards n=4 Meets n=10 Inconsistently Meets=0 Does Not Meet=0 Results from Major Papers in SPE 5120 and SPE 5900: SU 2018-SU 2020. Across the aggregate of both papers, the following summarizes candidates' Writing Competence ratings:	provided to candidates for feedback. Concerns about written language are documented in candidate files. Performance data is analyzed by the Department Curriculum Committee (DCC). — Committee/Person Responsible:
3. Written Communication Skills Candidates for a Master's degree with a major in Special Education will demonstrate written competence. Written competence is demonstrated in two varied ways: written comprehensive exam and major papers in SPE 5120 and SPE 5900. (EIU Graduate Outcome	Writing Competence is assessed in all courses; however, to standardize outcomes, results from the two required core courses: SPE 5120 (Issues) and SPE 5900 (Research) will be analyzed. Candidate written competence is also assessed on all completed departmental comprehensive exams.	to the Depth of Content Knowledge learning objective It is expected all candidates will meet or exceed standards specific to written communication skills (rating of 3 or above) as defined in the departmental rubrics for assignments and exams	Exceeds n=14 Meets n=4 Does Not Meet n=0 Results on the SPE 5120/5900 Written Comprehensive Exam: 18 candidates completed the written comprehensive exam for SPE 5120/SPE 5900 summer 2018 through summer 2020. The rubric used in scoring the written exam includes "Written Communication Skills" as an area of evaluation. On this area, candidates received the following ratings:	Rubrics are used to evaluate Issues paper and the Research proposal and candidates receive a copy. Rubrics are likewise used in the assessment of candidates' written comprehensive exams and are provided to

		a Research proposal.	Consistently Exceeds n=26 Exceeds Some Standards n=15 Meets n=18 Inconsistently Meets n=10 Does Not Meet n=1 The rubrics and data charts for SPE 5900 and SPE 5120 are provided as attachments to this report.	Graduate Faculty/Course Instructor, Graduate Coordinator, Advisors, and Chair
	Candidates completing their M.S. SU 2018-SU 2020 were rated by faculty on a dispositional survey relative to demonstration of written communication	The Dispositional Survey will reflect that candidates "Meet" or "Exceed" the standard related to the Written Communication objective	Candidates completing their program between SU 2018-SU 2020 were rated by faculty in their last semester of coursework on their Written Communication. Aggregate ratings are as follows: Exceeds n=9 Meets n=9 Does Not Meet n=0	
4. Oral Language Skills Candidates for a master's degree with a major in Special Education will demonstrate "oral language competence." (EIU Graduate Outcome 3.)	An oral presentation on an "issue" in SPE 5120 is required.	Oral language skills will be demonstrated appropriate to an advanced professional. An advanced professional can communicate effectively, sharing synthesized information, clearly	Oral language skills are formally assessed through an "Issue" presentation which is given by the candidate in SPE 5120. Ratings on candidates' oral communication follow: Consistently Exceeds n=12 Exceeds Some Standards n=14 Meets n=2 Inconsistently Meets=0 Does Not Meet=0	A rubric is used to assess the oral presentation and the completed rubric is provided to candidates. Concerns regarding oral language use are discussed with candidate and documented in candidate file.

	Candidates completing the M.S. in Special Education are rated by faculty on a dispositional survey in terms of their ability to utilize effective oral communication skills.	communicate concepts and opinions, and demonstrate appropriate semantics and grammatical skills. The Dispositional survey will reflect that candidates "Meet" or "Exceed" the standard related to the Oral Communication objective	The candidates completing their degree SU 18-SU20 were rated by faculty at the end of their programs on their Oral Communication Skills. Aggregate ratings are as follows: Exceeds n=12 Meets n=6 Does Not Meet n=0	Performance data is analyzed by the Department Curriculum Committee (DCC) Committee/Person Responsible: Graduate Faculty/Course Instructor, Graduate Coordinator, Advisors, and Chair
5. Evidence of Advanced Scholarship Candidates for a Master's degree in Special Education will demonstrate the ability to critically review and synthesize existing research and to relate research to practice. (EIU Graduate Outcome 4)	Candidates must pass a written comprehensive exam specific to Issues/Research. Candidate demonstration of advanced scholarship is assessed in this exam	Candidates are expected to meet or exceed standards of demonstration of advanced scholarship on the written comprehensive exam for SPE 5120 (Issues) /SPE 5900 (Research)	Across SU 18-SU 20, 18 Issues/Research written comprehensive exams were completed. 1 candidate's response was rated as "Consistently Exceeds, 4 earned a rating of "Exceeds Some of the Standards", and 13 "Met" the standard related to the demonstration of advanced scholarship.	Results are communicated via a formal letter reflecting critique of the written response and a final "pass" or "not pass (rewrite)" determination. Committee/Person Responsible:

Across coursework, graduate candidates complete projects that are designed to assess candidate performance. Each graduate assessment assesses evidence of "advanced scholarship" and "ability to relate research to practice". The two core courses (SPE 5120 and SPE 5900) taken by all MS candidates have major assignments which evaluate candidates' ability to do so.	Candidates will demonstrate advanced scholarship and ability to relate research to practice in completion of graduate programmatic assessments earning a rating of 3 (Meets Standard) or above on each related rubric element from the SPE 5120 Issues Paper and SPE 5900 Research Proposal.	Candidates completing the Research Proposal earned the following ratings on the Required Components section of that assignment: Summer 2018 Consistently Exceeds n=7 Exceeds Some Standards n=5 Meets n=2 Inconsistently Meets n=0 Does Not Meet n=0 Fall 2018 Exceeds Some Standards n=1 Spring 2020 Consistently Exceeds n=1 Summer 2020 Consistently Exceeds n=13 Exceeds Some Standards n=8 Meets n=5 Inconsistently Meets n=0 Does Not Meet n=0 Candidates completing the Issues Paper earned the following ratings on the rubric element "Candidate Demonstration of Analysis & Synthesis of Research" Fall 2018 Consistently Exceeds n=3 Exceeds Some Standards n=6 Meets n=1	Graduate Faculty/Course Instructor, Graduate Coordinator, Advisors, and Chair
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		Inconsistently Meets n=2 Does Not Meet n=0 Fall 2019 Consistently Exceeds n=2 Exceeds Some Standards n=5 Meets n=5 Inconsistently Meets n=3 Does Not Meet n=0	
Candidates completing the M.S. in Special Education are rated by faculty on a dispositional survey in terms of their ability to engage in research/scholarship	The Dispositional survey will reflect that candidates "Meet" or "Exceed" the standard related to the Research/ Scholarship objective	The candidates completing their degree SU 18-SU20 were rated by faculty at the end of their programs on their skills in Research/Scholarship. Aggregate ratings are as follows: Exceeds n=13 Meets n=5 Does Not Meet n=0	
Graduates of the M.S. in Special Education program will advance their knowledge by continuing their education and/or enter positions of leadership	Graduates will seek additional degrees or endorsements or assume leadership roles	Results: Of the 18 candidates who completed their MS from SU 18-SU 20, one has entered a PhD program, two have begun exploring PhD/EdD programs with the intent of entering in the next two years, one has continued into an Educational Leadership program to add the Special Education Director credential, and 13 have received an advanced	

	entitlement (LBS II) on their Professional Educator License
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PART TWO:

Describe your program's assessment accomplishments since your last report was submitted. Discuss ways in which you have responded to the CASA Director's and Graduate Dean's comments on last year's report or simply describe what assessment work was initiated, continued, or completed.

There was only one question from the Graduate Dean seeking a response in the 2016-18 Graduate Special Education Student Learning Assessment Program Summary (i.e. What do you do when candidates do not meet your expectations?). All other comments were positive. To respond to the aforementioned question, the program's actions when a candidate does not meet departmental expectations depend on the class, the expectation(s) that are unmet, and/or the task for which the expectation is unmet. On comprehensive exams, feedback is utilized to provide an additional opportunity to demonstrate mastery on elements of the rubric when they are unmet. For example, if a candidate fails to accurately and adequately describe a specific statistical analysis used in a study, the evaluator will likely refer the candidate to materials that will help him or her gain a deeper understanding of the concept and thus provide a better description in the resubmission. Similarly, if a section of a completed project does not meet standards, the instructor may choose to allow the candidate to revise and resubmit for reduced credit. Conversely, if an element of a rubric simply does not meet the standard, this will often result in fewer points earned on the assignment overall and copious feedback will be provided by the instructor. There have been a small number of cases across the past two years where the candidate consistently does not meet expectations across assignments and/or classes/semesters and a conversation with the advisor or graduate coordinator has resulted in a change of program. If the graduate faculty or the Department Curriculum Committee notices a consistent pattern of a particular standard not being met, a discussion ensues to determine if changes are needed in the curriculum, the assignments, the evaluation instruments or the fidelity with which these are applied.

PART THREE:

SUMMARIZE CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND LEARNING THAT HAVE RESULTED FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUR ASSESSMENT PROGRAM.

The Graduate Program is designed to meet each candidate's career goals and objectives. The program is intended for individuals who already hold licensure in Special Education. Candidates may elect to complete the sequence of courses that culminates in an advanced Illinois certificate, LBS II, in "Curriculum Adaptation" or "Behavior Intervention," may commence work toward the "Director of Special Education" endorsement or may choose Master's coursework as it relates to their own professional goals. All candidates are required to complete the "Issues" course, SPE 5120, and the research course, SPE 5900. All candidates must complete comprehensive exams or a thesis; if choosing to seek additional licensure or an additional endorsement, a state exam is also required and counts as one of the two required comprehensive assessments of knowledge. Eighteen candidates completed the master's program between summer 2018-summer 2020. Thirteen candidates passed the State of Illinois Behavior Intervention Specialist Test and one passed the Special Education Director Exam. Fifty-one new candidates entered the program within this time period (SU 18-SU20).

The comprehensive exam that is required of all candidates who choose not to complete a thesis covers issues and trends in special education as well as research concepts and methods. Candidates must successfully complete the SPE 5120 and SPE 5900 courses and be at the midpoint of their degree program before they are eligible to take the exam. In the Issues course (SPE 5120) a major issue paper is required, and an in-depth oral presentation must be provided on the issue. A research proposal is required in the research course (SPE 5900). In addition to these two courses and the required assessments, candidates complete an additional minimum of 15-18 semester hours of special education graduate work along with 9 hours of foundations courses from the EDF and EDP departments. While the Research and Issues courses are both offered each academic year, all other graduate special education courses are rotated across a three-year cycle. Each graduate course includes a minimum of one departmentally specified assessment.

Across the past two years (2018-20), all required and core courses in the MS in special education program have been taught at least one time in the online format. Restructuring of and updating of courses has occurred based on candidate feedback and instructor perceptions. Course sequences have also been reconsidered along with the course length (some are offered in a half-term format whereas others are full term). Additional SPE elective courses (e.g. SPE 5620) that have not been taught in some time are also being rotated into the schedule to increase offerings. The "Council for Exceptional Children Advanced Professional Practice Standards" are being used to assess candidate performance. Data generated for this report are a result of the use of these assessments and rubrics.

Refinement of Assessment Process:

Performance assessments were redesigned 2015-2016 and implemented across graduate classes to assure the EIU Graduate Outcomes and the 2012 CEC advanced professional standards are addressed, and candidates' performance is assessed specific to these standards. Rubrics and summary sheets designed, refined, and used across all graduate classes are appended to this report. Currently data is collected and analyzed specific to the IBHE Graduate Survey every 5-7 years; "dispositional survey" at candidate entry, in-progress, and in final semester; and on programmatic course embedded assessments. Employer and candidate completer surveys are also utilized for programmatic feedback. With data available for 15 assessments across the graduate courses 2018-20, graduate faculty now have diverse, rich, and useable assessment data for purposes of assessment of candidate performance and program improvement. The data generated across assessments is also used by the Chair in the varied and numerous reports required by the University, Illinois State Board of Education, Council for Exceptional Children/CAEP, and IBHE. The performance assessment data that has been collected and analyzed is reviewed by graduate faculty and the Department Curriculum Committee annually. Additional discussions occur biannually consistent with the submission of this report.

Plans for the Future

CEC/CAEP standards will be revised in the near future which will necessitate realignment of all performance assessments and potentially some of the key assignments. Additionally, the program plans to revise the required courses for each of the program sequence options which will require approval across various committees at the college and university level as well as the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Further future plans include adding new elective course options and consideration of seeking to initiate an approved Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) sequence.

Student Learning Assessment Program Response to Summary Form Graduate Program 2020

September 19, 2020

Department: Special Education

Degree and Program Name: Special Education- MS in Ed. Graduate Program Reviewer: Dr. Nikki Hillier, Graduate Assessment Coordinator, Graduate School

Category	Comments
Learning	The objectives for the program encompass all the graduate learning goals
Objectives	established by EIU's Council on Graduate Studies.
How, Where, and	Your program has several very clear measurements for assessing learning
When Assessed	objectives. Candidates are assessed throughout the program using a variety
	of measures including: faculty surveys, state exams, comprehensive exams,
	proposals, and assignments with well-defined rubrics. That type of
	assessment seems helpful in determining when competencies improve and
	identifying opportunities for improvement in the curriculum.
Expectations	Expectations are appropriate for graduate learning and are clearly defined.
	The measures used seem to demonstrate the great work you are doing with
Results	your assessment plan. That all the graduates who took an advanced
	licensure test through the state earned a passing score demonstrates the
	significant value of the program. Most candidates are meeting and
	exceeding standards for all measures. Further, the process for
	comprehensive exams demonstrates the rigorous, fair, and extremely
	supportive nature of your program with an obvious goal of helping
	candidates master material. Of particular note is the number candidates
	continuing education or entering leadership positions.
How Results Will	It is clear that your program takes assessment seriously. The meaningful way
be Used	the Special Education program reviews and discusses results to make
	changes to curriculum, the assignments, and instruments shows that
	assessment is not just another item on your to-do list.
Recommendations	The program is doing excellent work with assessment. For the next report, it
	would be helpful to include the results of the employer and candidate
	surveys, and to clarify the statistics on passing the state exams (15/15
	passed, but the narrative reads a little differently). We recommend
	continuing to use the variety of helpful assessments your program currently
	employs to demonstrate the value of your program, faculty and the quality
	of your graduates.

The Council on Graduate Studies is evaluating assessment, learning goals, and future reporting schedules during the fall semester 2020.