

**Culminating Experience Paper for Students in Master's of Education (M. Ed.)  
Program in Curriculum and Instruction with an Emphasis Concentration in Elementary  
Education**

Teacher Education Content Area Committee  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction

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## Purposes of the Paper

The culminating experience paper as described below is designed for students in the Master's of Education (M.Ed.) Program in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis concentration in Elementary Education. The paper gives students the opportunity to demonstrate the depth and breadth of knowledge acquired in their major emphasis concentration area(s) and to link such knowledge to teaching practice. In particular, students need to be able to:

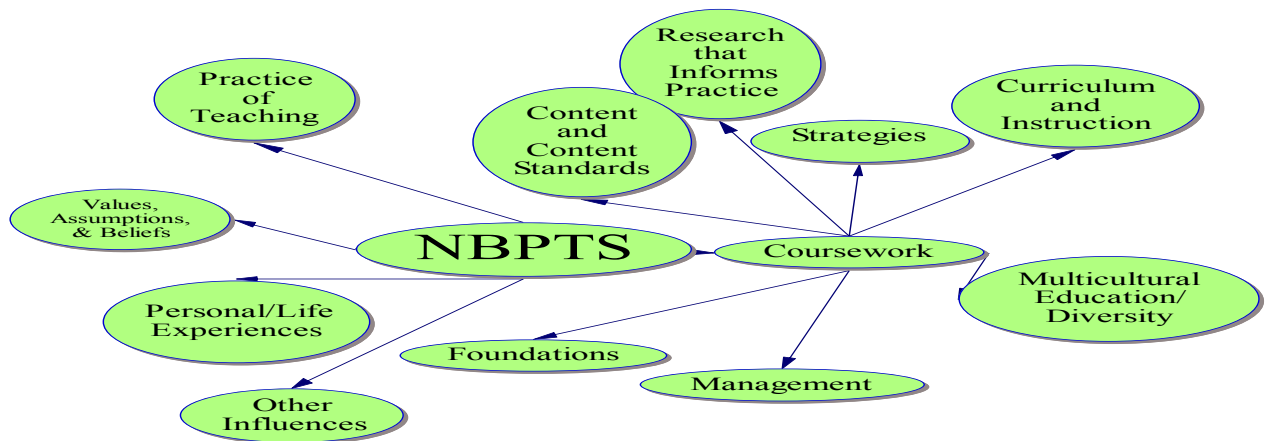
- Synthesize theories, concepts, and information that they learned throughout their program of study
- Situate their synthesis in the professional literature
- Connect their learning to teaching practice
- Communicate what they learned and their connections to practice through professional writing

## Expectations for the Paper

The question for the culminating experience paper and the evaluation rubric are consistent with the following propositions of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS):

- Proposition #1: teachers are committed to students and their learning
- Proposition #2: teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students
- Proposition #3: teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning
- Proposition #4: teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience
- Proposition #5: teachers are members of learning communities

In addition, the paper addresses coursework in curriculum, instructional strategies, classroom management, multicultural education, and educational foundations as well as content area(s). The paper also asks students to reference relevant research literature, personal experiences, beliefs, and teaching practice in the response. These components of the paper are illustrated in the diagram below:



## Question for Culminating Experience Paper

### What does a teacher need to consider when developing, implementing, and analyzing a curriculum unit?

In answering this question, use area(s) of emphasis concentration in your Master's program of studies as the specific subject area(s) for your curriculum unit and analysis. You may prepare one unit and analysis that integrates all your areas of emphasis concentration or develop units and analyses for each emphasis area. Be certain to:

- briefly describe the unit. (For the paper, a "unit" is defined as a total of five hours of instructional time spread over a period of 5 or more days.)
- analyze the unit. The analysis is the most important part of the paper. As you write your analysis, please remember that it is a synthesis of the important knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for a teacher to develop and implement such a unit.
- include research that supports your analysis by including at least **15 references** to educational literature using correct **American Psychological Association (APA)** style for referencing. Of these references, **at least 7** should be chosen from the reference list attached.

#### *Content for the paper:*

Students will write the paper according to the schedule set up by the department in each semester. The paper should answer the take-home question that draws on the following course work in their program as well as on their own learning and teaching practice:

#### General Pedagogical Courses:

- CIE 681 - Elementary School Instruction
- CIE 683 - Elementary Classroom Management
- CIE 685 - Elementary Education Curriculum
- CIE 687 - Curriculum Development Elementary Education
- CIG 601, Curriculum and Instruction Urban Settings
- CIG 602, Differentiated Curriculum and Instruction
- CIG 603, Urban Education
- CIG 690, Teachers as Action Researchers
- CIG 692, Curriculum Evaluation in Education

#### Courses in Two of the Following Curricular Areas:

- Mathematics Education
- Science Education
- Social Studies Education
- Literacy Education
- Multicultural Education
- Technology Education
- Teaching English as Second Language
- Bilingual Education

***Format for the paper:***

The paper should be written using APA style. The paper should be 20-25 pages excluding cover, abstract, diagrams, figures, references, and appendix pages and should include the following sections:

Cover page that includes the following information in this order:

- Question for culminating experience paper
- Title of the paper (given by student based on the specific content of his or her paper)
- Name of the Student
- Student Number
- Email
- Telephone Number
- Emphasis concentration Area(s)
- Date of Submission
- Advisor

Abstract page (less than 150 words) that includes:

- Purpose of the paper
- Major content of the paper
- Brief conclusion

Brief outline of the unit (about 5 hours of instructional time spread over 5 or more days) that includes:

- Curricular and instructional goals and objectives.
- Activities/experiences for students
- Materials
- Assessment tools

Analysis of the unit that includes:

- A description of the students for whom you are developing the unit (grade level, needs, ethnicity, other demographic characteristics).
- Information about the context (content emphasis concentration area(s), school information, cultural perspective, curricular and instructional goals and objective).
- An explanation of the meaning of curriculum and instruction.
- Model of curriculum development used, and rationale for identifying the model.
- Your underlying philosophical perspective as it relates to curriculum and instruction.
- How you are meeting the specific needs of students particularly in diverse settings, society, and subject matter.
- Approaches to classroom management and classroom environment that help in the implementation of this unit.
- Teaching strategies used throughout the unit and rationale for the strategies.
- Approaches to formative and summative assessment of student learning.
- A deep and comprehensive analysis about your experience in developing, teaching, and assessing the unit.
- A discussion about what you learned about students, curriculum, instruction, management, and yourself as a teacher.

Reference pages

- List all your references according to APA style
- At least 15 references are used throughout the paper
- At least 7 references are used from the bibliography attached below

***Process for the paper writing:***

Students who plan to take the culminating experience need to enroll in the appropriate CIG 697 for 1 credit semester hour during the semester in which they plan to graduate. As students start their one credit hour seminar, CIG 697, they should meet with their advisor to discuss the issues relevant to their question and ultimately determine curricular area(s) for their question as well as the contexts of school, grade level, students in which their papers are situated.

The paper from each student should be submitted to the advisor **no later** than the C&I Department’s posted deadlines: November 1, April 1 or July 1. **One copy** of the paper must be **submitted electronically** to the advisor.

***Evaluation of the paper:***

Once the paper is submitted, a minimum of one faculty member in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction will review the student’s paper. For papers with questionable or marginal merit, at least two additional faculty will review the papers. Academic faculty will read and rate the paper according to the following rubric.

STANDARDS LEVELS ↓    →	Theory into Practice	Professional Philosophy	Conduct and/or Evaluate Research	Content and Pedagogical Knowledge	Professional Standard Knowledge	Presentation and Format
Distinguished (3)						
Proficient (2)						
Marginal (1)						
Unacceptable (0)						

Faculty reviewers will complete the cells of the Culminating Experience Scoring Rubric with language specific to the project required of students in that area independently. The following list of descriptors is intended to help each group consistently distinguish among the performance levels so that as a department we have comparable rigor.

**DISTINGUISHED (3)**

- exceeds expectations
- multiple layers of connected and convincing evidence
- exceptional performance
- communicates distinctively and authoritatively
- proposes original and creative solutions

## PROFICIENT (2)

- meets expectations
- multiple sources of clear evidence
- satisfactory performance
- communicates accurately
- presents a clear and convincing argument

## MARGINAL (1)

- meets minimum expectations
- provides some evidence
- limited performance
- demonstrates limited ability to communicate ideas in writing
- presents partial or faulty argument

## UNACCEPTABLE (0)

- does not meet expectations
- provides little or no evidence
- insufficient or incomplete performance
- exhibits numerous errors in writing that disrupt meaning
- presents unsupported, incoherent argument

## Total Score:

- **S (Satisfactory) or PASS: Total score  $\geq 12$  with no score = 0.**
- **NO PASS TO PASS: Total score  $\geq 8$  and  $< 12$  for NO PASS.  
Revise and resubmit on or before the Friday of the last week in instruction.  
Total score  $\geq 12$  with no score = 0 for PASS; total score  $< 12$  for FAIL.**
- **FAIL: Total score  $< 8$  FAIL.**

Students must receive an *S (Satisfactory) or Pass* on the culminating experience. Those who pass the culminating experience will receive a mailed copy of the final culminating experience form for advanced degree from the C&I graduate studies office.

If a student receives a *No Pass to Pass* for the culminating experience paper, he or she will have an oral defense or revise and resubmit the whole paper on or before the Friday of the last week in instruction. Total score must be score  $\geq 12$  with no score = 0 for PASS after oral defense or revision of his or her paper.

When a student receive a *No Pass* grade for the culminating experience paper, he or she must retake the entire culminating experience in the following semester by following all the process described above. The advisor will decide on the content of the question.

If requested, the Graduate Coordinator and/or the Department Chairperson will be available to meet with the student and advisor. Subject Content Area faculty may also be asked to meet with the student and advisor. If the student fails a second time, requests for a third chance will not be permitted by the Graduate College.

## Suggested References:

- Anyon, J. (1981). Social class and school knowledge. *Curriculum Inquiry*, 11, 3-42.
- Apple, M. (1990). *Ideology and curriculum*. New York: Routledge, Chapman and Hall.
- Arends, R. I. (2006). *Learning to teach* (7th ed.). Boston, MA.: McGraw Hill.
- Armstrong, D.G. (2003). *Curriculum today*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Merrill Prentice Hall.
- Brophy, J. (1989). Research on teacher effects: Uses and abuses. *Secondary School Journal*, 89(1), 3-21.
- Brown, J. S., Collins, A., & Duguid, P. (1989). Situated cognition and the culture of learning. *Education Researcher*, 18(1), 32-34.
- Bruner, J. S. (1960). *The process of education*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Cruikshank, D. R., Jenkins, D. B., Metcalf, K. (2006). *The act of teaching* (4th ed). Boston, MA: McGraw Hill.
- Dewey, J. (1916). *Democracy and education*. New York: The Free Press, Macmillan Company.
- Dewey, J. (1933). *How we think*. Boston: D.C. Heath and Company.
- Dewey, J. (1938). *Experience and education*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company.
- Dewey, J. (1964). The child and the curriculum. In R. D. Archambault (Ed.), *John Dewey on education* (pp. 339-358). Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Dewey, J. (1990). The child and the curriculum. In J. Dewey (Ed.), *The School and Society & The Child and Curriculum* (pp. 339-358). Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Eisner, E. (1982). *Cognition and curriculum*. New York: Longman.
- Elmore, R.F., & Fuhrman, S.H. (1994). *The governance of curriculum*. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.
- Freire, P. (1998). *Pedagogy of freedom: Ethics, democracy, and civic courage*. Translated by Patrick Clarke. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
- Henson, K. (2003). *Curriculum planning* (2nd ed.). Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc.
- Joyce, B., Weil, M., & Calhoun, E. (2004). *Models of teaching* (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon.
- Kellough, R. D. & Carjuzaa, J. (2006). *Teaching in the middle and secondary schools* (8th ed). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Merrill.
- Marsh, C.J., Willis, G. (2003). *Curriculum: Alternative approaches, ongoing issues*. (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Merrill Prentice Hall.
- Mager, R.F. (1984). *Developing attitude toward learning* (2nd ed.). Glenview, IL: Scott Foresman.
- Manning, M. L. & Bucher, K. T. (2003). *Classroom management: Models, applications, and cases*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Merrill.
- Maslow, A. H. (1971). Education. In *The farther reaches of human nature* (pp. 155-195). New York, NY: The Viking Press.
- McNeil, J. D. (2005). *Contemporary Curriculum: In thought and action* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons.
- McNeil, J. D. (2002). *Curriculum: The teacher's initiative* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Merrill Prentice Hall.
- McNeil, J. D. (1995). *Curriculum: A comprehensive introduction* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons.

- National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. (1987). What teachers should know and be able to do. Arlington, VA: National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
- National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. (1998). *Program standards for secondary teacher preparation, Review and comment edition*. Washington, DC: National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.
- National Council for the Social Studies. (1994). *Expectations of excellence: Curriculum standards for social studies*. Washington, DC: National Council for the Social Studies.
- National Council of Teachers of English and the International Reading Association. (1996). *Standards for the English language arts*. Urbana, IL: National Council of Teachers of English and the International Reading Association.
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. (2000). *Principles and standards for school mathematics*. Reston, VA: National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.
- National Research Council. (1996). *National science education standards*. Washington, D.C: National Academy Press.
- Oliva, P.F. (2005). *Developing the curriculum* (6th ed.). New York: Longman.
- Ornstein, A.C., & Behar, L.S. (1995). *Contemporary issues in curriculum*. Needham Heights: Allyn and Bacon.
- Parkay, F.W. & Hass, G. (2000). *Curriculum planning: A contemporary approach* (7th Edition). Needham Heights, MA: Allyn and Bacon.
- Rosenshine, B. (1985). Direct instruction. In T. Husen & T. N. Postlethwaite (Eds.), *International Encyclopedia of Education* (Vol. 3, pp. 1395-1400). Oxford: Pergamon Press.
- Shulman, L. (1987). Knowledge and teaching: Foundations of the new reform. *Harvard Educational Review*, 57(1), 1-22.
- Silberman, M. (1996). *Active learning: 101 strategies to teach any subject*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.
- Skinner, B. F. (1974). Summing up. In *About behaviorism* (pp. 241-277). New York, NY: Vintage Books.
- Posner, G.J. (1992). *Analyzing the curriculum*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Posner, G.J., & Rudnitsky, A.N. (1994). *A guide to curriculum development for teachers*. New York: Longman.
- Pratt, D. (1994). *Curriculum planning: A handbook for professionals*. Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace College Publishers.
- Slevin, J.F., Young, A. (Eds.) (1996). *Critical theory and the teaching of literature: Politics, curriculum, and pedagogy*. Urbana, IL: National Council for Teachers of English.
- Taba, H. (1962). *Curriculum development: Theory and practice*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc.
- Taba, H., & Others. (1971). *A teacher's handbook to secondary social studies: An inductive approach*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley.
- Tanner, D., & Tanner, L.N. (1980). *Curriculum development: Theory into practice* (2nd ed.). New York: Macmillan publishing Co., Inc.
- Von Glasersfeld, E. (Ed.). (1989). *Constructivism* (first ed. Vol. 1). Oxford: Pergamon.
- Vygotsky, L. S. (1978). Interaction between learning and development. In *Mind in society: The development of higher psychological processes* (pp. 79-91). Cambridge: Harvard University Press.



- Vygotsky, L. S. (1994). The problem of the environment. In Rene van der Veer & J. Valsiner (Eds.), *The Vygotsky reader* (pp. pp 338-354). Cambridge, USA: Blackwell.
- Wiggins, G. & McTighe, J. (2005). *Understanding by design*. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.
- Wiles, J., & Bondi, J. (1993). *Curriculum Development: A guide to practice* (4th ed.). New York: Merrill.
- Wolfe, P. (2003). *Brain matters: Translating research into classroom practice*. Alexandria, Virginia: ASCD.

The following **periodicals** will provide current examples of issues surrounding secondary school curriculum, instruction, and classroom management. Other periodicals appropriate for the student's content area may be also included upon gaining approval from the advisor. In addition, students are encouraged to access articles related to curriculum and critical pedagogy.

*Action in Teacher Education, Educational Leadership, Phi Delta Kappan, Reading Teacher, Journal of Reading, The Elementary School Journal, Journal of Curriculum Studies, Journal of Urban and Cultural Studies, Harvard Educational Review, comparative Education, Language Arts, The New Advocate, Social Education, Social Studies and the Young Learner, Arithmetic Teacher, School Science and Mathematics, International Journal of Educational Reform, Educational Foundations, Science Scope, The Science Teacher, History of Education Quarterly; Reading Research Quarterly; Research in Middle Level Education Online, Journal of Teacher Education*

CIG 715 Assessment Matrix



Date \_\_\_\_\_

Score \_\_\_\_/18 Circle one: Pass Fail

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Concentration \_\_\_\_\_

STANDARDS LEVELS  	Theory into Practice	Professional Philosophy	Conduct and/or Evaluate Research	Content and Pedagogical Knowledge	Professional Standard Knowledge	Presentation and Format
Distinguished (3)						
Proficient (2)						
Marginal (1)						
Unacceptable (0)						

Paper or Project due on or before: Spring - April 1, Summer - July 1, Fall - November 1.

- **PASS:** Total score  $\geq 12$  with no score = 0.
- **NO PASS TO PASS:** Total score  $\geq 8$  and  $< 12$  for NO PASS.  
Revise and resubmit on or before the Friday of the last week in instruction.  
Total score  $\geq 12$  with no score = 0 for PASS; total score  $< 12$  for FAIL.
- **FAIL:** Total score  $< 8$  FAIL.

Each emphasis concentration area/interest group may complete the cells of the Culminating Experience assessment matrix with language specific to the paper or project required of students in that area. The following list of descriptors provides guidelines so as to distinguish among performance levels for comparable rigor across emphasis concentration areas.

**DISTINGUISHED (3)**

- exceeds expectations
- provides multiple layers of connected and convincing evidence
- demonstrates exceptional performance
- communicates distinctively and authoritatively
- proposes original and creative solutions

**MARGINAL (1)**

- meets minimum expectations
- provides some evidence
- demonstrates limited performance
- exhibits limited ability to communicate ideas
- presents partial or faulty argument

**PROFICIENT (2)**

- meets expectations
- provides multiple sources of clear evidence
- demonstrates satisfactory performance
- communicates accurately
- presents a clear and convincing argument

**UNACCEPTABLE (0)**

- fails to meet expectations
- provides little or no evidence
- demonstrates insufficient or incomplete performance
- exhibits lack of ability to communicate ideas
- presents unsupported or incoherent argument

CIG 715 Assessment Matrix

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Score \_\_\_\_/18 Circle one: Pass Fail

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Concentration \_\_\_\_\_