

Conceptual Framework

Chicago State University

College of Education/College of Arts & Sciences Education Unit

A. Vision and Mission of the Institution and Unit

Vision: The College of Education is a unit in an urban-based institution of higher education that provides global leadership in the preparation of education professionals by advancing:

- (a) best practices in teaching that impact student learning,
- (b) knowledge through research and scholarship,
- (c) critical thinking, and
- (d) service through outreach efforts.

Mission: The mission of the College is to offer high quality programs and services that prepare education professionals (including teachers, counselors, diagnosticians, leaders, librarians, information specialists, leisure personnel and others) to plan, organize, deliver, assess, support and oversee instructional activities. The College is committed to fostering effective teaching practices in settings with significantly diverse student populations.

This mission supports the University's mission to:

- Provide access to higher education for residents of the region, the state and beyond, with an emphasis on meeting the education needs, undergraduate through doctoral levels, of promising graduates from outstanding secondary schools as well as educating students where academic and personal growth and promise may have been inhibited by lack of economic, social, or education opportunity; and
- Prepare graduates who are responsible, discerning, and informed global citizen with a commitment to lifelong learning and service.

B. Philosophy, Purposes, Goals/Institutional Standards of the Unit

Goals: The College pursues its Vision and accomplishes its Mission through activities that meet the following Goals:

- Sustain a caring, cohesive and supportive college team that fosters collaborative relationships throughout the college, university and community.
- Recruit, retain and prepare education PROFESSIONALS who are recognized for their effectiveness of teaching, quality of research, depth of scholarship, concrete understanding of pedagogy, unremitting service, productive leadership and exemplary community outreach activities.
- Model best practices in teaching that are informed by research, integrated with TECHNOLOGY and validated by the learners' quest for knowledge across the life span.
- Prepare candidates to engage and utilize systemic and systematic ASSESSMENTS that provide assure accountability, enhance efficient utilization of resources, fulfill expectations of stakeholders, and address the demands of the contemporary job market.

- Provide comprehensive and coherent STANDARDS-aligned programs that develop CONTENT KNOWLEDGE.
- Develop and sustain collaborative outreach relationships with schools, libraries, non-profit and commercial organizations, and other institutions that meet the needs of schools, communities and workplace settings.
- Foster commitments to diversity, social justice, and service to linguistically and culturally diverse learners.
- Promote democratic leadership.

Beliefs and Values: We believe that ALL CANDIDATES CAN SUCCEED. To ensure success, faculty and staff in the College of Education are committed to planting and cultivating the following values among candidates:

- Commitment to Excellence – We expect our candidates to demonstrate best practices in education by continuously pursuing PROFESSIONAL preparation that centers on knowledge in their CONTENT area; implement local, state and national STANDARDS; and employ ASSESSMENT strategies that are designed to ensure quality and accountability.
- Promotion of Well Being—We expect our candidates to provide a positive nurturing environment where collaboration is grounded in sensitivity to individual dignity and to the concept that all students should be afforded equal access to quality education.
- Global Preparedness—We expect our candidates to display a commitment to PROFESSIONAL preparation that is informed by STANDARDS and exemplified through the preparation of learners for a TECHNOLOGY-ready, global environment.
- Reliability and Integrity—We expect our candidates to be dependable, accept responsibility, and to consistently adhere to ethical standards in all settings.
- Civility—We expect our candidates to show respect for others (tone of voice, body language, personal etiquette, empathy, etc.) and an understanding of and sensitivity to cultural differences.
- Life-Long Learning and Scholarship—We expect our candidates to engage in the pursuit of learning as a lifelong process with branches that reach across many academic disciplines to enhance human growth and to promote intellectual and cultural development.

C. Conceptual Framework Statement

All activities in the College are guided by the belief that we **Prepare All Candidates To Succeed**, which translates into the **PACTS** acronym. The PACTS acronym also represents the strands for the College of Education’s Conceptual Framework which serves as a model for how the College of Education prepares all candidates to succeed in helping urban children learn. This preparation is characterized and distinguished by five core themes: **(P)** Professionalism, **(A)** Assessment, **(C)** Content knowledge, **(T)** Technology, and **(S)** Standards.

The Conceptual Framework Strands are evident in the PACTS logo. The strands surround the tree, an institutional symbol of our commitment to life-long learning.

