PROFESSIONALISM GRADE – BEING A CARING TEACHER

Besides being a competent teacher in the classroom (HTSB Standards 1-8), the Alternative Certification Program and the state of Hawai‘i expect you to also be a caring professional (HTSB Standard 9). As soon as you step into a classroom, your reputation as a professional begins and that means that everything you do or say determines how you are regarded in the profession. Caring is the “engine” that drives teachers to continually grow and improve, and at the “heart” of any effective teacher is a person who deeply cares about the profession.

The Alternative Certification Program uses the CTE Candidate Assessment Form to outline the specific knowledge and skills that are used to determine Candidate’s caring and a rating of “meets proficiency” overall for HTSB Standard 9 is considered the benchmark for being a caring or an effective CTE Candidate. The ratings are also used to determine a CTE Candidate’s Professionalism Grade in educational courses.

Below are the three areas with specific standards and actions the CTE Candidate needs to demonstrate as a caring teacher in an education classroom or practicum placement.

I. Effective CTE Candidates care about students (9.1-9.4)

9.1: Candidate takes responsibility for all students' learning by developing professional practice

- Complete the Alternative Certification Program Successfully!
- Evaluate teaching practices to grow as a professional.
  - Complete Teaching Portfolio and Rationales (All ED Courses).
  - Complete Why do you want to be a teacher? assignment (ED 285).
  - Complete Personal Learning Theory assignment (ED 289).
- Seek opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities in the school.
  - Coach a sport.
  - Advisor for a club.
  - Assist at a fund-raiser for school.
- Seek opportunities for professional development.
  - Attend workshop on technology.
  - Attend workshop on developing classroom literacy.
- Attend professional meetings (faculty meetings, conferences) if possible.
9.2: Candidate helps students’ achieve their full potential
   • Incorporate student-centered instructional strategies to provide choice and opportunities for all students to reach their potential.

9.3: Candidate nurtures students’ respect and compassion
   • Incorporate peer mediation strategies into classroom

9.4: Candidate protects the health, safety, well-being, and rights of students
   • Incorporate safe practices in all aspects of the learning environment.
   • Advocate for the rights for your students, especially when no one else does.

II. Effective CTE Candidates care about being a Professional (9.5-9.7)

9.5: Candidate demonstrates professional behavior
   • Attitude
     o Be open-minded.
     o Accept feedback as an opportunity to learn and grow
     o Respond to feedback with solutions rather than complaints
   •Appearance
     o Dress appropriately for the classroom setting.
   • Deadlines & Commitments
     o Be punctual. Arrive at your placement on time. Maintain scheduled practicum hours.
     o Call your Cooperating Teacher and College Supervisor (where applicable) when you are going to be late, absent, or if there are any issues or concerns that might affect any field place requirements.
     o Meet all course assignment deadlines.
     o Follow through on commitments. Contact person if unable to make commitment.

   • Prepared & Organized – ED Course Work
     o Write down your due dates and responsibilities in a calendar

   • Prepared & Organized – Practicum
     o Write down your due dates and responsibilities in a calendar
     o Get contact information for Alt Cert Program, ED instructors, College Supervisor, Cooperating Teacher, School, Principal, etc.
     o Know school check in/out procedures for yourself and College Supervisor
     o Tour the school campus to become familiar with restrooms, cafeteria,
library, teachers’ workroom, and designated teacher/staff parking areas
  o Locate custodian(s) and other support personnel;
  o Learn where meetings take place (faculty & parent-teacher meetings)
  o Know the school discipline policies and forms.
  o Review school forms, such as tardiness, passes, excuses, etc.;
  o Learn rules and procedures for fire drills and other emergency policies.
  o Learn how to checkout and use media equipment, computer and other
    shop equipment and resources;

  o Quality of Work
    ▪ Communicate ideas clearly by following writing conventions (ED 285)

9.6: Candidate is respectful to everyone

  • Keep in mind that you are a guest in the school.
  • Listen first, speak second, but only to ask more questions!

9.7: Candidate is fair and equitable to everyone

  • Use standards-based grading system to be fair.
  • Have clear assessments with clear grading criteria.
  • Provide resources to everyone (fair), and provide resources to those without
    (equitable).

III. Effective CTE Candidates care about being Ethical (9.8-9.11)

9.8: Candidate demonstrates integrity

  • Do NOT exploit professional relationships with anyone for personal gain.
  • Do NOT accept gifts or favors that would influence professional decisions or actions.

9.9: Candidate is open and honest to everyone

  • Deal with people directly and be honest in representing the facts.

9.10: Candidate makes teaching practices transparent to everyone

  • Let everyone know that you are going to try out some type of “controversial”
    teaching strategy before trying it (taking students outside, letting them call you by
    first name, grouping students by academic score, etc.)

9.11: Candidate keeps information confidential

  • Don’t share information about a person unless person gives permission.
  • Share information if required by law.