

**College of Education**  
**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
**Unit Assessment System**

**Guiding Questions**

This assessment system is designed to answer questions that are vital to a variety of stakeholders including candidates, faculty, programs, the unit, and school partners. Each of these stakeholder groups needs meaningful and timely assessment information to assist them in answering the following essential questions: What do our candidates know and what can they do at benchmark points and when they graduate? How will we assess the extent to which our candidates have attained the standards that we have adopted? What is the overall quality as evidenced by candidate performance? What type of evidence will we offer to indicate quality? Specifically, the COE assessment system is predicated on the systematic flow of communication among our:

*Faculty, programs, unit, and school partners:*

What do our candidates know and what can they do at benchmark points and when they graduate?

*Candidates:*

What do I need to do to become a well-qualified educator? This means the assessment system should help teacher candidates (1) know the expectations of their program, (2) know how well they are doing in relation to expectations, and (3) know what they need to do to improve and meet expectations.

*Faculty and school partners:*

How can we respond to the strengths and weaknesses of individual teacher candidates? What patterns should be considered? While faculty and school partners have always been able to use course and field assessments for these purposes, the assessment system enables faculty and school partners to gain a larger perspective.

*Faculty, programs, & the unit:*

What does the assessment data tell us about how to improve programs to give candidates the most effective education to fulfill the Vision, Mission, and Values of the Conceptual Framework?