

## **School of Education Conceptual Framework**

### **Introduction**

The conceptual framework, or knowledge base, is an on-going, living document that undergirds all of our credential, degree, and certificate programs. The LMU School of Education Conceptual Framework is informed by the University and School of Education's Mission and Goals statements, and national and state standards including the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) 2002 standards, the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC) 1992 standards, and other program standards. Our Conceptual Framework focuses on educational success for all learners through respect, education, advocacy, and leadership. On-going, formative assessment provides critical support for the LMU School of Education students, staff, and faculty to become well-rounded educators in the service of others, and is the vehicle for program improvement. Our assessment system includes the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that educators need to fulfill our mission of creating a more equitable education for all. The professional dispositions we value and assess as educators are derived from our Mission and Goals. We strive to be, and to educate professionals to be, educators who:

- **Respect and Value all Individuals.**
- **Educate by Integrating Theory and Practice.**
- **Advocate for Access to a Socially Just Education.**
- **Lead in Order to Facilitate Transformation.**

We have identified seven important tenets as being clear manifestations of our knowledge base which support each of our professional education programs: social justice, integration of theory and practice, sociocultural/constructivist perspective, culturally responsive pedagogy, technology, community collaboration, and leadership. The seven tenets of our Conceptual Framework integrate theory and practice, inform one another, and are not mutually exclusive. The tenets are operationalized into Unit Candidate Outcomes (which are the same as our Professional Dispositions) and Division Proficiencies, which allow us to assess the Conceptual Framework. The following is a brief discussion of our beliefs as they relate to each of the above tenets, followed by the Candidate Outcomes and Proficiencies.

### **Social Justice**

We recognize that society is not perfect and that there are many people in the United States and in the world who lack the basic necessities of life. Unjust social structures are a major reason for inequities and social stratification. Throughout history, human beings have socially constructed systems that institutionalize inequality, prejudice and discrimination. These systems serve to benefit some members of society and to keep others from fully developing or obtaining their place in the social structure. We see that education is a powerful force in both understanding and responding to social inequities and historical forces of oppression. For many oppressed people, education may offer the only possible hope for authentic social change (Giroux, 1988; hooks, 1994). Therefore, as educators we are committed to the concept of social justice as part of our mission.

We understand social justice in two ways: as emanating from our religious/spiritual tradition as a Jesuit/Marymount university, and coming out of a critical educational tradition that is not necessarily explicitly religious. In terms of the spiritual traditions, the concept of social justice emerges from the scriptural notion that God entrusted human beings to be stewards of creation, and that human persons have not always been faithful stewards of God's gift (National Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1986; United States Catholic Conference, 1995). The gospel message compels us to protect and enhance the least among us, and to pursue the common good for all people, not just a privileged few (John Paul II, 1987). In education, the Marymount and Jesuit traditions emphasize the importance of working for justice as a concrete way to respond to the stewardship relationship we have with our students. This takes the form of addressing injustice in our own lives and work, and also in the lives of our students. We educate our students to be women and men for others, students who have the intellectual capabilities to keenly analyze the nature of injustice in the society and also the personal conviction to work for social change (Jesuit Secondary Education Association, 1987; Milligan, 1993). In accordance with Catholic social teaching, we commit ourselves to the *preferential option for the poor* (Jezreel, 1997) as one response to the religious/spiritual tradition of social justice.

In terms of the educational tradition of social justice, as educators we recognize the truth of Martin Luther King Jr.'s words, that humanity will either learn to live together as brothers and sisters or we will die together as strangers (King, 1963). What happens to any individual in the human family affects us all, and the true greatness of a society is measured by the way its weakest members are treated. We also agree with Paulo Freire that education is not a neutral act but rather one that empowers or disempowers (Freire, 1970). We affirm the Freirian notion that while education should be available for and empower all people, educators must be especially concerned about individuals and groups that historically have been disempowered by unjust social structures. In this light, we also affirm the work of Antonio Gramsci (Mayo, 1999), and believe education should work toward countering the culture of hegemony. Thus, a major goal of education is to help build a society that is free of prejudice, hatred, racism, sexism, homophobia, lingualism, ableism, and all forms of discrimination.

We are committed to implementing the above understanding of social justice in the following ways: (1) modeling social justice in our interactions with students, colleagues and the community; (2) incorporating social justice themes and analyses in our courses as appropriate; and (3) working for social justice in the community.

### **Integration of Theory and Practice**

The faculty of the LMU School of Education are reflective practitioners who integrate theory and practice in order to prepare graduates who will work for a more just and equitable society. We recognize and believe that effective educators are reflective and scholarly practitioners. They question their own aims, assess their practice and outcomes, and monitor the effects of their practice upon each student (Moallem, 1997). The foundation for this belief is congruent with the concepts and goals of Jesuit education that include critical inquiry, social responsibility and value-oriented reflection. These principles provided direction for the first education courses taught at the University in the 1930s.

In addition to the Jesuit concepts and goals, education courses have also been influenced by the work of John Dewey and his ideas related to reflective practice. Faculty have encouraged students to be in a “state of questioning” and in the “act of searching” (Dewey, 1933). Along the way, candidates have been “disposed to reflect,” knowing that knowledge alone is not sufficient but that it must be accompanied by “a desire to apply” (Dewey, 1933, 1938). Wanting to expand on the beliefs of Dewey, the faculty of the School of Education began to incorporate the work of Schon (1983) into its practice. Courses attempted to integrate Schon’s message of combining “professional knowledge” with “zones of practice.”

As reflective practitioners ourselves, we recognize that the purpose of theory is to assist in the organization of information and knowledge so that it can better inform practice. The integration of theory and practice is a dynamic and reciprocal process involving reflection and dialogue. Believing that knowledge is socially constructed, courses in the School of Education have incorporated the principles of sociocultural/constructivist theory (Applefield, Huber, & Moallem, 2001; Poplin, 1988, Tharp & Gallimore, 1988; Vygotsky, 1978; Wertsch, Del Rio & Alvarez, 1995), in addition to presenting other theories relevant to various disciplines represented in the School of Education which graduates can incorporate as part of their professional practice. The application of sociocultural/constructivist theory in courses and fieldwork models an approach for future teachers, counselors, psychologists and administrators which they can apply in their practice, making learning for students more relevant and applicable to their everyday lives. To apply the sociocultural/constructivist theory and to enable candidates to be reflective practitioners, courses are structured so that they incorporate a variety of strategies. Examples include cooperative learning, reflective journals/portfolios, the use of students’ funds of knowledge, multicultural education, and authentic assessment.

Recognizing the value of technology in converting knowledge to practice (Wiesenberg, 1999), we both model its use in our courses as well as require candidates to integrate it in a variety of assignments. In addition to learning the practical aspects of using technology, candidates are prepared to critique its use so that technology is used in a socially responsible and humanly responsive way.

As we move to providing experiences that enable candidates to integrate theory and practice, we are also developing a performance assessment system that both facilitates teaching and learning and reveals the distinctive achievements of individual candidates (Eisner, 1999). Assessment of performance, including application of various theories presented throughout the programs, will provide systematic feedback that enables candidates to develop knowledge and skills which are more authentic and related to the context of the schools in which they will be professionals.

### **Sociocultural/Constructivist Perspective**

The School of Education uses theory to guide practice in all areas of our work. While we use a multitude of theoretical perspectives, including critical theories, in the preparation of educators, two educational traditions that inform our teaching and learning are the sociocultural and constructivist perspectives. We recognize that differential achievement among students is a serious concern for educators. There are various factors affecting school achievement, including social, cultural, and school-related influences. While understanding and responding to these factors are important in the education of all students, this is especially important for students

from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Therefore, we utilize sociocultural (Cole & Scribner, 1974; Tharp & Gallimore, 1988; Vygotsky, 1978; Wertsch, Del Rio, & Alvarez, 1995) and social constructivist (Poplin, 1988; Vygotsky, 1978) theoretical perspectives concerning teaching and learning.

There is strong conceptual similarity in the literature between sociocultural and constructivist theories (Díaz, Moll, & Mehan, 1986; Erickson, 1987). We purposefully merge these two concepts because combined they provide a powerful construct that helps inform our mission as a School of Education. The sociocultural/constructivist perspective highlights the following:

- Thinking and learning are social processes, not merely individual processes;
- Learning is an active process fueled by the desire to regulate cognitive dissonance experienced in everyday learning tasks. Through assimilating and accommodating new information, individuals restructure their thinking and experience cognitive growth;
- Learning requires active participation and engagement in which individuals construct knowledge, not only passive processing;
- Meaningful learning is situated in the context of everyday teaching and learning settings and in everyday problem-solving activities—these vary by cultural context, socioeconomic status, and other sociocultural and sociopolitical factors;
- School failure is a product of the interaction of several factors—including the environment, the relationship between the student and the teacher, the teacher's cultural and pedagogic competency, and school leadership—not just the student (Martin, 1996).

The sociocultural/constructivist perspective implies that teachers, counselors, psychologists, and administrators seek to understand the views and experiences of students, engage them in actively co-creating knowledge, and make learning relevant and applicable to real world situations. A further implication is that evaluation and assessment must be authentic and linked to school improvement and student achievement. We believe that sociocultural and constructivist approaches are compatible with well-formulated standards-based instructional systems, and we are committed to assisting educators who struggle with the apparent incompatibility of direct instruction programs and the sociocultural/constructivist paradigm.

### **Culturally Responsive Pedagogy**

We recognize the need to create a culturally responsive pedagogy that promotes equitable learning for *all* students and closes the differential achievement gap. The critical components of such a pedagogy are centered on the notions that educators create learning environments in which *all*: “(a) students must experience academic success; (b) students must develop and experience cultural competence; and (c) students must develop a critical consciousness through which they challenge the status quo of the current social order” (Banks & Banks, 1995, p. 160).

We recognize the continuous growth of culturally and linguistically diverse students in schools, and the contributions of their heritage, languages, and cultures in the formation of a pluralist society in the United States. However, because the current shortage of educators from similar backgrounds to their students, it becomes imperative to identify educational practices that reaffirm and validate the diversity of students’ voices and experiences. Therefore, schools, institutions, and educators must consciously embrace and implement policies and practices that

adequately respond to the needs, interests, and experiences of students. Cochran-Smith (1993) defines such practices as being "locally appropriate" and cautions that culturally responsive pedagogies must be constructed from students' lived experience. Moll, Amanti, Neff, and Gonzalez (1992) refer to the latter as *funds of knowledge*, "this approach involves understanding the sociopolitical and economic context of the households and analyzing their social history" (p.133). This new transformative and comprehensive vision of students' cultures refutes the deficit model that has permeated the entire school system, and advocates a vision of cultural diversity that involves recognition of the sociopolitical and economic contributions of culturally and linguistically diverse families, and the knowledge their children bring to the classroom. An important consideration in culturally responsive pedagogy is that, as educators, we must understand and come to terms with how our own values, assumptions, and socialization experiences reaffirm or disregard the funds of knowledge of the learners.

We recognize that there are traditional educational practices in the United States that promote inequity and ethnocentrism. Darder (1991) notes that these detrimental educational practices include the promotion of meritocracy, the inappropriate use of intelligence testing, tracking and ability grouping, low teacher expectations for minority students, and a curriculum that perpetuates "values and social relations that produce and legitimate the dominant worldview at the expense of a vast number of citizens" (p. 19). We recognize that it is imperative to examine the educational systems that work against those that are marginalized by social class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, exceptionality, language, and gender. Additionally, we recognize that it is "virtually impossible to understand the classroom behavior and performance of economically disadvantaged [sic.] and minority students without understanding their history as an oppressed group, cultural frames of reference, and their everyday social practices" (McLaren, 1994, p. 207). In order to work against these practices, we strive to prepare educators who are aware of social inequalities and how educational systems can participate in their reproduction. In our classrooms, we facilitate such discussions and encourage teachers, counselors, administrators, and school psychologists to address, create, and implement educational models that are inclusive of a systematic analysis of schooling and students' subjugated knowledge.

We are committed to the implementation of a culturally responsive pedagogy by engaging students' funds of knowledge in classroom materials, curriculum, and instructional activities. In doing so, we seek to build a bridge between home and school cultures in a way that critically validates and authenticates multiple worldviews and provides for high academic outcomes.

## **Technology**

The School of Education at LMU believes that technology can be a catalyst for creating a more equitable society. "New technologies offer opportunities for empowerment to individuals and communities" (Schwab, 2001). Technology provides access to information that allows individuals to make informed decisions about their lives and the lives of others. Equal access to information provides a way for including different voices in conversations on education, religion, economics, globalization, politics, etc.

Technology is a tool that allows all educators to do their jobs more effectively and efficiently. We believe the purpose of using technology in education is not only to "automate" but to "informat" as well (Zuboff, 1988). Technology can be an asset to make better decisions about the educational experiences of various educational stakeholders. Thus, we strive to develop

educators who will be proactive leaders for the integration of technology in schools and will strive to use technology as a tool to make connections to the communities they serve. Furthermore, technology contributes to scholarship through efficient data collection and research. However, technology can never replace personal interaction and we are committed to ensuring that technology preserves and enhances, rather than replaces, human interaction.

Harnessing the potential of technology means not only increasing access but also improving student learning through creative thinking and planning. We share the view of Jonassen, Peck, and Wilson (1999) in their discussion of technology as “mindtools.” Technology is a tool that supports students’ knowledge construction process. Students not only learn from technology, they learn with technology. Teaching with technology should not be, as Wilson (2001) observed, a mere duplication of paper-based instruction.

Despite the promise of technology to change society, we recognize the existence of the digital divide. According to *Falling Through the Net: Defining the Digital Divide* (United States Department of Commerce, 1999) access and the ability to use computers and the Internet are increasingly critical to economic success and personal advancement. While more members of our society than ever before have access to technology, there is still a significant digital divide separating the technology “haves” and “have-nots.” (Becker, 2000; Hoffman & Novak, 1999) Educators must understand how decisions and actions using technology can be used to promote the common good and how technology can be used to maintain social inequities. We are committed to closing the gap that defines the digital divide by providing the tools educators need to look critically at educational policy related to technology, by creating proactive leaders who can find ways to support technology in schools, and by encouraging future educators to provide students of various gender, ethnic, ability, and language backgrounds with engaging technology learning experiences.

The educational community must also ponder the ethical considerations of technology. “Computer ethics deserve special attention because of our rather human ability to view our actions in the intangible, virtual world of information technologies as being less serious than our actions in the real world” (Johnson, 1998). As the dialogue on integrating technology in educational communities continues around the globe, students, staff, and faculty of the School of Education are committed to being essential participants in discussions on the ethical and pedagogical considerations of learning, teaching, assessment, research, and leading with technology.

## **Leadership**

The School of Education, operating within a Catholic university, embraces both public and private school communities and prepares leaders to serve all people through inclusive, diverse, and multicultural dimensions (Banks, 2000). The Catholic university’s dynamic presence in our pluralistic society, and responsibility for shaping future educational leaders, is faithful to the best in our intellectual tradition, when it provides a voice that leaves no educational constituency out of the conversation of educating our youth (Buckley, 1998).

We recognize and believe that leadership is an important component of all learning organizations and complex systems, necessary to forge synergy and coherence (Fullan, 1999). We believe

leadership must be shared across communities, as members are empowered to capture the vision and mold plans to serve the common good. We believe leaders must practice their craft in an exemplary way, espouse social justice values, and demonstrate an ethic of care (Noddings, 1992; Sergiovanni, 2001). “Leaders with strong values translate these into organizational vision” (Evans, 2000, p. 291). To be a leader one must be a servant, a change facilitator, an advocate for youth, and a guardian of the community (Fullan, 2001; Sergiovanni, 2000). We believe leaders accomplish this by following, serving, reflecting, knowing, assessing, and inviting others to share in the process of leadership (Ryan & Bohlin, 2000; Sergiovanni, 1994). “To exercise leadership today, leaders must institutionalize their leadership” (Gardner, 2000, p. 12).

Effective leaders express what they value, extend what they value, and learn to manage change (Fullan, 2001). “Spelling out their basic assumptions and discovering their authentic core helps leaders develop strategic biases for action to guide their work and shape the implementation of change” (Evans, 2000, p. 305). Effective change facilitators are adept at framing problems in ways that connect to the different audiences, understand the transformational power of collaboration, and ground their work in a results-driven collective focus (Marsh, 2000; Schlechty, 1997).

As Senge (1990) describes, a learning organization involves people at all levels who collectively and continually enhance their capacity to create the environment and outcomes they want. All leaders, whether teachers, public administrators, elected officials, students, or parents, must be equipped with the basic disciplines of systems thinking, personal mastery, and shared vision (Odden & Odden, 1995; Senge, 2000). We believe twenty-first century leaders require knowledge, skills, and dispositions in the following areas: systemic reform; reflective practice; ethical, moral, and collaborative decision-making; diversity and inclusion; critical inquiry; advocacy for technology and its accessibility to all stakeholders; and assessment/research methodology.

We encourage leaders to create learning organizations by incorporating shared vision, strategic planning, authentic assessment, and reflection in their practice. “It is only by attending to context and feedback while planning and performing that excellence is achieved” (Wiggins, 1998, p. 28). Leaders must understand ways to collaboratively develop ongoing professional development as the natural result of an exemplary systemic assessment process. To this end, leaders will help to transform schools/systems into knowledge and capacity-building organizations guided by a culture of professional accountability, self-regulation, and advocacy (Darling-Hammond, Ancess, & Falk, 1995).

Leadership starts with individual actions, and moves beyond to influence the system in which actions occur (Ogawa & Bossert, 2000). In fact, we believe the process of becoming a leader is the same as the process of becoming an integrated human being. “For the leader, as for any integrated person, life itself is the career. Discussing the process in terms of leaders is merely a way of making it concrete” (Bennis, 1989, p. 4).

### **Community Collaboration**

One premise guiding school-community collaboration is an acknowledgment that a school cannot be separated from the context of the community in which it exists. Loyola Marymount University, and most especially the School of Education, recognizes the importance of the

community in helping to carry out the university's mandate to foster the development of the whole person. This would necessarily involve a learning experience grounded in the community, in addition to the more generic wish to make a substantive contribution to the community.

The ever-expanding task of education requires the linkage between schools and community agencies forging connections that foster learning. Programs that strategically link elements of community agencies with schools will ultimately contribute to improved learning outcomes (Honig, Kahne, McLaughlin, 1999). The partnerships formed between educational institutions, families, and community agencies create an environment that enhances the educational climate, with higher impact partnerships allowing teachers to learn about their students and the community it serves. "Children now live and develop in a postindustrial age in which technology, travel, distance, and disintegrating communities have exacted a heavy toll . . ." (Haynes & Comer, 1996). The schools are no longer solely institutions for academic learning, but have become small communities within broader communities and are supporters of the community, supported by the community.

We recognize the funds of knowledge parents bring to schools. Therefore, parental involvement in education is recognized as central to the optimal developmental and educational outcomes for their children, and as a catalyst for school reform. Yet, consistent and meaningful collaboration with parents is not evident at many schools and at all levels of education. We are committed to helping our candidates understand and mitigate the myriad of proximal and distal social systems (Hoolver-Demsey & Sandler, 1997) that work to limit or enhance families from getting involved in the education of their children. Coursework is designed not only to assist our candidates to understand the processes underlying parents' thinking, decision-making, and behaviors that lead to school involvement, and the significant impact that political, economic, and social events may have on family-school relations, but also to identify the systemic barriers that prevent meaningful parental involvement.

The overall goal of community collaboration is to develop a sense of community where people feel invited, valued and empowered to come together and transcend individual differences. Community-building is ultimately to provide greater educational access and equity for all. While the primary manifestation of our efforts in community-building are most often seen at the local and national levels, in terms of collaboration and partnerships, the needs of the global community must also inform our efforts in this area.

## **Shared Vision**

The above Conceptual Framework represents a shared vision for the Education Unit. Although the vision has guided the SOE for years in a general way, it was first articulated as a conceptual framework in our initial 1998 NCATE accreditation. The design of the 1998 Conceptual Framework involved multiple stakeholders and was done through a yearlong process of reflection and discussion on the professional literature in light of the Mission and Goals of the University and the School of Education. The faculty gave input during a 1996 weekend faculty retreat that was geared toward to the development of the CF. After the retreat, full time faculty members all committed to months of reading and discussing educational articles as part of the process of developing the Conceptual Framework. The resulting document truly articulated a shared vision for the Unit.

Because the Conceptual Framework is a living document, we re-visited the document as part of our continuing accreditation process. During the Fall 2001 semester, the tenets of the Conceptual Framework were each assigned to a small group of faculty members for revisions and updates. Then the faculty worked on revising the CF during the Fall 2001 faculty retreat. The next step in the process was the Fall 2002 faculty retreat, where the full-time faculty developed Unit Outcomes, Candidates Proficiencies, and Professional Dispositions. This step was necessary to operationalize the Conceptual Framework (see Standard 2) and put it in a form that could be measured and evaluated more formally in Year 2 (2003-2004) of our Assessment Plan (see Standard 2). The current Conceptual Framework describes the vision and purpose of the LMU School of Education in preparing educators to work in P-12 schools. The CF has been shared with all stakeholders, is based on the educational literature, and is aligned with the University's Mission.

### **Coherence**

As noted in the above section, the Conceptual Framework's development has been a process. The original 1998 CF, in alignment with the NCATE Standards at the time, was knowledge based and articulated a clear vision for the Education Unit. The major development in the ongoing process of revising the Conceptual Framework has been to make it more systematic and coherent across programs. This will be done in phases following our Assessment Plan (see Standard 2). The first step in operationalizing the Conceptual Framework was to develop the Unit Outcomes, Candidates Proficiencies, and Professional Dispositions, which were finalized in January 2003. While the Unit Outcomes, Candidates Proficiencies, and Professional Dispositions provide a clear system for ensuring coherence among curriculum, instruction, field experiences, clinical practice, and assessment across a candidate's program, we will formally and systematically go through a process as a School of Education to ensure alignment in these areas with the Conceptual Framework. The Assessment Plan activities for Year 2 include a syllabus-review process to ensure that curriculum, instruction, and assessments are aligned with the Unit Outcomes. The Plan also calls for a review and revisions of field experiences and clinical practices to ensure alignment.

### **Professional Commitments and Dispositions**

As noted above, the Unit has articulated Unit Outcomes, Candidates Proficiencies, and Professional Dispositions during Year 1 (2002-2003) of our Assessment Plan. The Unit and Outcomes and Unit Professional Dispositions are the same. This emerged from the Fall 2002 faculty retreat where it was decided to write the Unit Outcomes in Dispositions because we could hold one consistent expectation for candidates in both areas. The professional dispositions we value and assess as educators are derived from our Mission and Goals. We strive to be, and to educate professionals to be, educators who:

- **Respect and Value all Individuals.**
- **Educate by Integrating Theory and Practice.**
- **Advocate for Access to a Socially Just Education.**
- **Lead in Order to Facilitate Transformation.**

**LMU School of Education Candidate Outcomes and Proficiencies**

<b>UNIT OUTCOME 1: Respect and value all individuals and communities</b>	
<i>Proficiencies for Teacher Candidates</i>	<i>Proficiencies for Other Professional School Personnel</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate knows, values, and integrates the diversity of students and their communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate knows, values, and integrates the diversity of students and their communities</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate promotes a culture of high expectations for all</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate promotes a culture of high expectations for all</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate engages learners using inclusive teaching strategies and practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate engages learners using inclusive professional strategies and practices</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate uses multiple resources to better understand and serve learners and their communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate uses multiple resources to better understand and serve learners and their communities</li> </ul>

<b>UNIT OUTCOME 2: Educate by integrating theory and practice</b>	
<i>Proficiencies for Teacher Candidates</i>	<i>Proficiencies for Other Professional School Personnel</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate demonstrates knowledge of historical, philosophical, socio-political, economic, and legal influences on education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate demonstrates knowledge of historical, philosophical, socio-political, economic, and legal influences on education</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate uses a critical lens to evaluate and deliver subject matter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate uses a critical lens to evaluate and support the delivery of content knowledge</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate reflects on personal experience of self and others to inform educational practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate reflects on personal experience of self and others to inform professional practice</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate knows and models exemplary professional practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate knows and models exemplary professional practices</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate utilizes multiple research methodologies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate utilizes multiple research methodologies</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate integrates content and pedagogical knowledge, academic skills, and technology in professional practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate integrates theory, skills, and technology in professional practice</li> </ul>

<b>UNIT OUTCOME 3: Advocate for access to a socially just education</b>	
<i>Proficiencies for Teacher Candidates</i>	<i>Proficiencies for Other Professional School Personnel</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate demonstrates effective communication and collaboration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate demonstrates effective communication and collaboration</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate promotes academic excellence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate promotes academic excellence</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate uses pedagogical skills to implement principles of equity and empowerment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate uses pedagogical skills to implement principles of equity and empowerment</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate understands and actively responds to issues related to the preferential option for the poor and marginalized groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate understands and responds to issues related to the preferential option for the poor and marginalized groups</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate advocates for and critically uses technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate advocates for and critically uses technology</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate demonstrates a commitment to ongoing professional development including participation in professional organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate demonstrates a commitment to ongoing professional development including participation in professional organizations</li> </ul>

<b>UNIT OUTCOME 4: Lead in order to facilitate transformation</b>	
<i>Proficiencies for Teacher Candidates</i>	<i>Proficiencies for Other Professional School Personnel</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate practices effective, ethical, and moral leadership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate practices effective, ethical, and moral leadership</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate shares and collaboratively constructs an inclusive vision with learning communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate shares and collaboratively constructs an inclusive vision with learning communities</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate seeks, reflects upon, and responds to constructive feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate seeks, reflects upon, and responds to constructive feedback</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate understands the factors and utilizes the processes that lead to systemic change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate understands the factors and utilizes the processes that lead to systemic change</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate understands and promotes equitable and effective assessment and evaluation systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The candidate understands and promotes equitable and effective assessment and evaluation systems</li> </ul>

## **Commitment to Diversity**

As noted in the previous sections, the Conceptual Framework embodies a strong commitment to diversity. The CF reflects our commitment to preparing education candidates to support learning for all students. Issues related to educational equity and access are paramount throughout the Conceptual Framework. The commitment to diversity is strongly supported by the knowledge base in the CF, especially using sociocultural and constructivist learning theories, in addition to critical pedagogy and social justice theories. This knowledge base provides a conceptual understanding of how knowledge, skills, dispositions, and skills related to diversity are integrated across the curriculum, instruction, field experiences, clinical practice, assessments, and evaluations. The commitment to diversity is a hallmark of the LMU School of Education.

## **Commitment to Technology**

The Conceptual Framework details the SOE commitment to technology, and to preparing educators who are able to use educational technology to help all students learn. The CF outlines our commitment to issues of equity and access in technology, including the digital divide. The section on technology provides a conceptual understanding of how knowledge, skills, and dispositions related to educational and information technology are integrated throughout the curriculum, instruction, field experiences, clinical practice, assessments, and evaluations.

## **Candidate Proficiencies Aligned with Professional and State Standards**

The Conceptual Framework and Candidate Outcomes and Proficiencies are aligned to Professional and State Standards according to the suggested process in the 2002 NCATE Continuing Accreditation training manual. Using an alignment matrix, each program coordinator aided by program faculty, examined the Candidate Outcomes and Proficiencies for their respective SOE Division with the appropriate Professional and State Standards. The Conceptual Framework provides the context for developing and assessing candidate proficiencies based of professional state, and institutional standards. Our institutional standards at the Unit level (Unit Outcomes, Candidates Proficiencies, and Professional Dispositions) were developed using a process of alignment with appropriate state and national standards, especially the INTASC standards (see Standard 2, p. 6 for Assessment System Chart; see also Table 2-1, p. 6, for the SOE Outcomes-Proficiencies-Standards Alignment Matrix).

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