

### **Conceptual Framework**

The Conceptual Framework is the rationale and organizing principle that guides the curriculum, programs, and outcomes for Preparing Exemplary Practitioners. It is grounded in research, knowledge, and experiences that describe what undergraduate and graduate candidates should know and be able to apply in their professional settings. It incorporates 10 descriptors, clustered into 3 interrelated and overlapping thematic commitments to preparing professionals to engage in *field-based inquiry*, to demonstrate *professional excellence*, and to contribute to the *betterment of society*.

#### **Commitment to *Field-based Inquiry*:**

- 🔥 **Inquisitive:** We believe that candidates should understand educational research and the implications for practice, have the ability to assess achievement and growth, and to question practices and investigate alternative solutions in educational settings.
- 🔥 **Adaptive:** We believe that candidates should be able to demonstrate flexibility and a willingness to attempt promising new approaches for effective educational improvement.
- 🔥 **Proactive:** We believe that candidates should be able to advocate for the removal of barriers and practices that impede educational improvement.

#### **Commitment to *Professional Excellence*:**

- 🔥 **Leading:** We believe that candidates should be able to demonstrate effective leadership skills to initiate and facilitate educational improvement.
- 🔥 **Reflective:** We believe that candidates should be able to demonstrate critical thinking skills and the ability to recognize their own internal strengths and weaknesses.
- 🔥 **Knowledgeable:** We believe that candidates should be able to demonstrate general knowledge inherent in a liberal arts curriculum, advanced knowledge in content areas, proficiency in technology, and specific knowledge in professional education.
- 🔥 **Decisive:** We believe that candidates should use data to make informed decisions that will drive educational improvement.

#### **Commitment to the *Betterment of Society*:**

- 🔥 **Culturally Sensitive:** We believe that candidates should understand diversity among individuals and groups, be committed to equity and the belief that all children can learn, and have the tools to prepare their students and clients for the global world they will face as adults.
- 🔥 **Empathetic:** We believe that candidates should be sensitive to the cultural, religious, gender, sexuality, and socio-economic differences that are reflected in their communities and ensure that these differences do not impede their educational progress.
- 🔥 **Collaborative:** We believe that candidates should be able to develop skills to work effectively with various stakeholders involved in the educational process.