## Master of Arts in Teaching Written Comprehensive Exam Instructions and Questions

## INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CANDIDATE

- Read each question carefully. Contemplate on the specific elements addressed within the question.
- Your response to each question should be as comprehensive as possible, ensuring that every required element within the question is addressed fully.
- Your Part 1 response will be composed prior to exam day. Responses for Part 2 must be composed on exam day and added to the document containing your Part 1 response. Composing Part 2 responses in advance is prohibited.
- Microsoft Word and Times New Roman (12-point) font must be used.
- All responses should be double-spaced, free of grammatical and other language errors, and reflect the quality of writing appropriate for professional educators completing a graduate degree program.
- Responses should be one-to-three pages in length. No single response may exceed three pages.
- When complete, e-mail the document containing your responses to your major professor.
- You have three hours to complete the examination.

## **QUESTION POOL**

Part 1: All candidates will respond to the following question in advance and bring a digital					
copy on exam day.					
Reflection	Demonstrate your ability to integrate the knowledge and experiences gained in the completion of your academic program with prior knowledge and experiences. How can you apply the knowledge and experiences gained to teaching? How have you grown personally? Relate clearly your coursework to the Conceptual Framework principles. Emphasize also your application of educational theories/principles.				
Part 2: Candidates will be assigned two of the following questions.					
Assessment	How do you assess student learning, and what do you do with the assessment data? Explain the process before, during, and after instruction. Explain how you use assessment data to plan instruction and ensure student mastery. Explain how you use diagnostic assessment, and give an example about how that has helped a student. Reference courses in your academic program and your professional experiences.				
Engagement and Motivation	Define student engagement and/or motivation. Explain techniques, models, or approaches you follow to ensure (1) differentiation of instruction and (2) engagement and/or motivation of all students. In your discussion, identify how you work to engage every student while minimizing the potential for one student or a few students to dominate the class environment. Reference courses in your academic program and your professional experiences.				

Management	What organizational practices, rules, and procedures do you have in your class? Explain procedures and physical arrangements you have in place to ensure the learning environment you create meets the behavioral needs of all students. Reference courses in your academic program and your professional experiences.			
Planning and	Explain how you teach your subject. Take into consideration the sequence of			
Instruction	instruction, the developmental levels of students, and the varying readiness levels of students. Describe an entire lesson from planning to delivery to assessment of learning to reflection. Discuss why you teach the way you do. Which theories or theorists influence your teaching, and how? Are your lessons interdisciplinary? If so, how? Reference courses in your academic program and your professional experiences.			
Professionalism	Define professionalism in terms of P-12 education. What are the primary characteristics of a professional educator? How do you embody these characteristics, and how do you encourage your peers to follow your example? In what ways has your academic program facilitated your growth as a professional educator? Reference courses in your academic program and your professional experiences.			

## SCORING RUBRIC (PER RESPONSE)

Question topic:						
	Target (5)	Acceptable (3)	Unacceptable (1)	Score		
Content	Elaborates on all vital	Mentions most of the	Mentions some of the			
	content for the	vital content for the	vital content for the			
	question.	question.	question.			
Application	Shows depth of	Shows understanding	Shows limited			
	understanding through	through application for	understanding through			
	application of all	most content	application of most or			
	relevant content	knowledge.	all content knowledge.			
	knowledge.					
Language	Less than two	Two to five	More than five			
	grammatical,	grammatical,	grammatical,			
	mechanical, or writing	mechanical, or writing	mechanical, or writing			
	errors exist.	errors exist, but errors	errors exist, and/or			
		do not interfere with	errors interfere with			
		understanding the	the understanding of			
		response.	response.			
Total points						