Lesson Planning Protocol

In the fall of 2013, a lesson planning committee comprised of early childhood, elementary and secondary education, and technology education faculty from the Department of Education Professions met to analyze and update the most recent iteration of lesson planning tools and templates. Although the most recent lesson planning protocols were recently aligned to support Louisiana commitment to Common Core State Standards (CCSS), data suggested that students were unskilled at planning and lacking confidence in effectively utilizing existing lesson planning tools and templates. Consequently, it became necessary to reassess existing planning protocols and provide more explicit instruction around lesson planning throughout students’ education program. Therefore, aside from minimal cosmetic changes and minor tweaks to the template, the lesson planning committee updated the existing lesson plan and accompanying rubric to articulate planning that clarifies and aptly details the lesson cycle, denotes attention to learners’ needs, styles and dispositions, supports planning for rigorous engagement through planned “seed questions,” aligns assessment to standard(s) to foster an appropriate and effective pedagogical “match,” and explicitly frames post-teaching reflection through guided prompts.

The newly developed lesson plan template and rubric were vetted by all DEP faculty in early spring 2014 and as fully implemented into all applicable coursework. Furthermore, to assist students, each DEP faculty member was expected to produce an exemplar lesson plan using the newly developed planning tools and templates. Beginning spring 2014, exemplars in lesson planning are now provided in each course with lesson planning requirements. Likewise, to ensure early and often lesson planning practice and to foster support that will increase efficacy for secondary education students, a new course, *EDUC 205*, *Fundamentals of Planning Instruction for Secondary Schools*, was developed, and will launch fall 2014, to explicitly teach how to utilize the lesson planning protocols to plan for standards-based instruction and assessment. It is anticipated that these changes and improvements in lesson planning and instruction will increase teacher preparation success for secondary education students.