

Teacher Dispositions: What They Are and Why We Care

<https://www.jmu.edu/coe/msme/msme-dispositions.shtml>

Becoming a teacher is more than learning content and teaching strategies. Becoming a teacher also means developing certain behaviors and attitudes that guide actions and beliefs. This combination of content knowledge, pedagogical skills and professional dispositions enable teachers to be effective, successful educators.

The dispositions outlined below have been identified by MSME as the understandings and skills that our students should develop and consistently portray throughout their education. While students are not expected to meet all the dispositional expectations upon entry into the program, they are expected to strengthen and mature in all areas, consistently exhibiting the required dispositions by the time they student teach.

Learn more about the MSME Department's [Dispositional Process](#).

Ethical Action and Communication

- Prioritizes the well-being of students
- Speaks honestly and acts with integrity
- Knows when information is confidential and respects student privacy.
- Shares information with appropriate parties when necessary to protect student well-being and to comply with regulations.
- Meets the JMU Student Standards of Conduct

Respect for Diversity of Others

- Responds to diversity by building empathy, respect, understanding and connection.
- Expresses comfort with people who are both similar to and different from them and engage respectfully with all people.
- Models respect for all in speech and behavior
- Speaks and acts equitably and without bias

Independent Agency

- Takes initiative when appropriate
- Needs minimal supervision or direction
- Plans for contingencies
- Can be trusted to carry out commitments

- Initiates collegial review of professional work when appropriate
- Takes responsibility for decisions, actions and outcomes
- Values self-care

Relationships

- Works to builds productive relationships with students, teachers, and supervisors
- Seeks collaboration and consensus
- Shares responsibilities equitably
- Clearly communicates boundaries when internalized set of values may be compromised

Time Management

- Arrives on time
- Sets appropriate priorities
- Meets deadlines
- Proactively addresses schedule issues and adjusts.

Professional Communication

- Replies to colleagues and supervisors in a timely manner
- Uses social media in appropriate ways
- Confers in person as needed to gain necessary information

Reflection

- Uses new and varied data to analyze, evaluate, and enhance performance
- Welcomes feedback
- Acknowledges strengths and areas for growth
- Considers ways that past situations inform future practice

Professional Effectiveness

- Dresses, grooms, and speaks as occasions require
- Adapts positively to changing circumstance
- Compromises for positive outcomes