LETTER OF INTENT

For most students the Letter of Intent will be submitted through LiveText as part of their Introduction to Education course requirement. Students who transfer in this requirement or wish to submit the Letter of Intent through hard copy can bring it to CEPS Dean’s Office, 1420 Buzzard Hall. The instructions for the Letter of Intent are as follows:

Eastern Illinois University (EIU) has identified five dispositional areas that all teacher candidates need to understand and practice. It is the belief of the faculty/staff at EIU that exhibiting these dispositions is important to your future success as an educator. These dispositional areas will be presented and discussed in courses throughout your program.

Candidate Dispositions:

Dispositions identified for student assessment are:
- Interaction with students (IWS)
- Professional and ethical practices (PEP)
- Effective communication (EC)
- Planning for teaching and student learning (PTSL)
- Sensitivity to diversity and equity (SDE)

Interaction With Students (IWS) Interaction with students encompasses those behaviors that evidence the candidate’s regard for the learners. These include acts of fairness, respectful tone of voice, positive use of humor, and interest in students as individuals.

Professional and Ethical Practices (PEP) Professional and ethical practices are often the most easily observed of the dispositional behaviors. Respect for the professional environment is evidenced through acceptable dress and grooming, and timeliness, not only in arrival and departure, but in completion of tasks.

Effective Communication (EC) Easily identified as a skill domain, effective communication within a dispositional framework refers to one’s regard for honest, fair, and accurate communication. Effective communication encompasses the belief that teachers must model effective communication for their students.

Planning for Teaching and Student Learning (PTSL) Planning for teaching and student learning in the dispositional arena refers to the beliefs about student learning and how these are evidenced in the acts of planning and teaching.

Sensitivity to Diversity and Equity (SDE) Sensitivity to diversity and equity goes beyond the acknowledgement or awareness of differences in the classroom or community. A positive disposition in this area may be evidenced by seeking out alternative materials, careful use of appropriate language and naming, equal disbursement of resources, and a lack of ethnocentric or gender-specific generalizations.

For your Letter of Intent, please write a paragraph addressing each of the following topics (i.e., four total paragraphs). Your Letter of Intent should demonstrate professional written language skills.

a. Write about yourself and your interests. Indicate what level you want to be certified in, your area of concentration, and an explanation of why you want to become a teacher.

b. Carefully read the list of dispositional areas above. Discuss one dispositional area you feel is already a part of your life (i.e., one that is a natural strength for you). What experiences have provided you opportunities to exhibit these dispositions? How do you think these dispositions will help you as a teacher?

c. In which of the dispositional areas above do you feel you need the most development? What can you do during your time at Eastern to better develop this dispositional area? Why is this dispositional area important for your career as a future educator?

d. Reflect upon your decision to become a teacher. Write about some of the experiences you have had in working with students in the age group you plan to teach. How did these experiences help you make the decision to become a teacher?