

English Language Arts Policy for Student Remediation & Dismissal from Program

The English Department wants to support all teacher certification as they work toward their goal of entering the field of education. As such, information on student progress is monitored in various ways throughout the program so that interventions can be made if a student is struggling to meet the criteria for advanced education courses and student teaching. This document explains the various ways that advisors obtain information about students' success in the program and the steps that take place if a student is not reaching the appropriate thresholds to continue on with the degree.

Monitoring Student Progress

The following information alerts advisors to any dispositional or academic struggles a teacher certification candidate is experiencing:

- *EIU's University-Wide Disposition Referral Form* (these forms can be filled out by any instructor, throughout the campus, if an issue arises with student conduct/performance; these are submitted to the Director of English Education and the appropriate administrators in the College of Education)
- *English Department's Yellow Disposition Referral Form* (teacher candidates provide each of their English instructors with these forms at the end of the semester to assess student performance and disposition; these are submitted to the Director of English Education)
- *Midterm Grade Alerts* (if a grade of D, F, or NC is entered for a teacher candidate their English advisor and the Director of English Education will be notified)
- *English Department Early Alert* (if a student is having issues in an English course, the instructor may fill out this early alert form; these forms are submitted to the English advisor and the English Department Chair)
- *Transcript Review* (periodically, typically prior to Fall and Spring advising sessions, teacher certification candidates' transcripts are reviewed to ensure that they are meeting the GPA requirements set by the department and university)

GPA & Grade Requirements

- Per the state of Illinois, students must earn a C or higher on any coursework that will count toward certification (including non-major general education courses).
- Specific courses in the College of Education require a GPA of 2.65 or higher to be taken: SPE 4500 (Special Education) and SED 3300/4300 (Practicum).
- The College of Education requires a final GPA of 2.65 or higher to earn a Student Teaching placement.
- The English Department requires a final GPA of 2.75 or higher, both overall and in the major specifically.

Student Remediation

Once the Director of English Education is alerted to a student's academic or dispositional issues, they will meet with the student to create a Remediation Plan to address the needed areas of growth. This could entail additional coursework, additional skill training, etc. These plans are customized to the student's individual needs (e.g. time management, writing skill deficiency, interpersonal communication skills, etc.). This Remediation Plan is passed by the English Education Committee and the student is presented with a timeline for its completion. These plans are not punitive; in fact, the goal is to address issues early so that students do not face any delays in earning their degree. The time of a typical Remediation Plan is one semester.

Dismissal from Program

Students may be dismissed from the English Language Arts Program under the two circumstances listed below:

- *Unsuccessful Remediation:* Students who fail to successfully complete a Remediation Plan may be granted the opportunity to draft and complete a second plan. Failure to successfully complete this plan would result in dismissal from the program. If a student successfully completes a Remediation Plan and the pre-existing issues arise again, the student may be dismissed from the program.
- *GPA Deficiency:* Once a student is of Junior or Senior status, if they fail to meet the required GPA for two consecutive semesters.

If the above happens the student will meet with their English advisor and will be switched over into the English Studies BA Program. At this meeting other degree options will be discussed. The English Language Arts major is closely aligned with the other English Major concentrations so that students who transition between the programs can graduate without additional delays.

Student Appeals

If a student is dismissed from the English Language Arts Program and later feels they have addressed the issues that resulted in their termination (e.g. the required GPA has been met), the student may file an appeal for reconsideration with the Director of English Education.