MODELING BEST PRACTICES IN TEACHER EDUCATION COURSES

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Standard 1: Teaching

Model teaching that demonstrates content and professional knowledge, skills, and dispositions reflecting research, proficiency with technology and assessment, and accepted *best practices* in teacher education.
Apply cultural competence and promote social justice in teacher education.

A culturally responsive pedagogy allows for the discussion of difficult topics – like racism, discrimination and prejudice – and offers students of all ages the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion that enhances learning. Because a culturally responsive pedagogy acknowledges the presence of racism that creates distorted and negative images of the cultures, histories and possibilities of people of color (Beaubeouf-Lafontant, 1999), culturally responsive classrooms can create a space where harmful images can be deconstructed and positive self and cultural affirmations can be displayed.

The principles of differentiated instruction lend itself to the culturally responsive pedagogical approach because it creates opportunity for a myriad of investigations into one lesson or topic at the same time. With differentiated instruction, students of color can explore a topic through a teaching approach that best meets their learning style, while examining the values, beliefs, and ideas that shape their experiences (NYU, Culturally Responsive Differentiated Instruction Strategies, August 2008).

**Standard 3: Scholarship**
Engage in inquiry and contribute to scholarship that expands the knowledge base of teacher education.

**Standard 4: Professional Development**
Inquire systematically into, reflect on, and *improve their own practice* and demonstrate commitment to continuous professional development.

http://www.nacctep.org
Provide leadership in developing, implementing, and evaluating teacher education programs that are rigorous, relevant, and grounded in theory, research, and best practice.

Excerpts from:


**Standard 6: Collaboration**
Collaborate regularly and in significant ways with relevant stakeholders to improve teaching, research, and student learning.

**Standard 7: Public Advocacy**
Serve as informed, constructive advocates for high quality education for all students.
Standard 8: Teacher Education Profession
Contribute to improving the teacher education profession.

Standard 9: Vision
Contribute to creating vision for teaching, learning and teacher education that take into account such issues such as technology, systemic thinking, and world views.