

**Mid-Program Candidate Feedback**  
**Foundations Block**  
**Course(s): ED 481/581**  
**Fall, 2018**

*f* = frequency of the responses

List those things that you perceive as strengths or aspects of your degree program that are most valuable to you.	<i>f</i>
<p>Classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class schedule! (Love it!)</li> <li>• Well prepared for teaching.</li> <li>• Lots of real life examples.</li> <li>• Well prepared for real life scenarios.</li> <li>• Organized.</li> <li>• The program challenges us to get different experiences within the different school settings and gives us real life lessons.</li> <li>• The way the teachers work together with scheduling all classes.</li> <li>• The practice we get with presenting, planning, and observation.</li> <li>• ED 581 – nitty gritty of teaching.</li> <li>• Preparing me for my future classroom with management, structure, how to prepare lessons, etc.</li> <li>• Interview practices.</li> <li>• Overview of informative works in classroom to prepare for teaching.</li> <li>• Content beyond the textbook.</li> <li>• Good advice &amp; tips.</li> <li>• I feel more prepared going into the classroom.</li> <li>• Keeps us engaged.</li> <li>• Pen pals.</li> <li>• I like that the program is set up in blocks so classes are organized and easier to handle together.</li> <li>• Preparation for TEP Interview.</li> <li>• Directions for taking Praxis.</li> <li>• Teaching Tips (for classroom).</li> <li>• Different teaching methods.</li> <li>• The work load is not too awful each week.</li> <li>• Each class keeps other classes in mind.</li> <li>• Preparation for TEP interview.</li> <li>• Real life examples (in classroom).</li> <li>• Fun activities.</li> <li>• Inspiration for future classroom.</li> <li>• The sources and resources that the professors provide for us are great!</li> <li>• Real life examples.</li> <li>• Group work.</li> <li>• Confidence.</li> <li>• Teaching opportunities in class, like presentations.</li> </ul>	28

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures.</li> <li>• Real life examples.</li> <li>• Love that we are only here 2 days.</li> <li>• Having outside people come in and speak to us.</li> <li>• Structure of preparation for TEP interviews.</li> <li>• In general, I like the assignments.</li> <li>• Technology.</li> <li>• Use of technology.</li> <li>• I would say my passion &amp; enthusiasm for students is a big strength for me. It helps keep me going &amp; motivates me during difficult patches. I love learning about classroom management and how to tailor the class to fit students' needs.</li> <li>• I feel I am being well prepared for the future at this school and as an educator.</li> <li>• The feedback from professors on writing assignments and presentations.</li> </ul>	
<p>Professors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professors are always willing to help and have very positive attitudes.</li> <li>• Professors are very encouraging and personable.</li> <li>• Dr. Davis and Dr. Smajic.</li> <li>• Professors are very knowledgeable.</li> <li>• Open communication with professors.</li> <li>• Professors are very active in our schooling and making sure we have everything we need.</li> <li>• Dr. Smajic is the reason I am confident in choosing to continue with this program.</li> <li>• Getting positive feedback from professors on my progress.</li> <li>• Teachers are very involved and hands on.</li> <li>• Very involved and caring teachers.</li> <li>• Teachers that really know how to help you and know what things are most important to learn about your degree.</li> <li>• Good teachers.</li> <li>• The teacher is amazing.</li> <li>• The teachers are so supportive right now.</li> <li>• Teachers are easy to contact and work with.</li> <li>• Meeting all of the faculty in the department.</li> <li>• Professors care more about whole experience than just assignments.</li> <li>• Offer plenty of advice for future teaching.</li> <li>• Practical tips from experienced professors.</li> <li>• Professors that care about their students.</li> <li>• I really enjoy all our professors, who are obviously passionate about the subjects they teach.</li> <li>• Accessibility.</li> <li>• Professor's character.</li> <li>• Accessibility.</li> <li>• Character of professors.</li> <li>• Supportive.</li> <li>• Professors give helpful feedback.</li> <li>• Professors are good at communicating and answering questions from students.</li> <li>• Meeting other professors in the program.</li> <li>• I feel like all my professors really know what they are talking about.</li> </ul>	25

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The professors are engaged in their subject area.</li> <li>• Good availability.</li> <li>• Communication.</li> </ul>	
<p>Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab time.</li> <li>• Observations are great.</li> <li>• Already getting time in the classroom working with students.</li> <li>• Observations.</li> <li>• Observation hours.</li> <li>• Observation in the schools are very valuable because they give me real life experience in the classroom and my CT is amazing.</li> <li>• Observation hours. We learn the most through hands-on experience.</li> <li>• Observation hours.</li> <li>• Hands on activity.</li> <li>• Lots of observation experience.</li> <li>• Observations at the schools.</li> <li>• Plenty of field experience.</li> <li>• Observations in schools.</li> <li>• I am very glad that 32 hours of our observation time has been set aside for us. This has been immensely helpful.</li> <li>• Hands-on (Observation hours).</li> <li>• The experience that I am gaining with my second graders.</li> <li>• School placements are great!</li> <li>• I really like that we are observing in a school so early on.</li> </ul>	18
<p>Peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing and starting a new block with the same people.</li> <li>• Having others who are on the same track that I am.</li> <li>• The cross-listing of classes with undergrads builds a community.</li> </ul>	3
<p><b>List those things that you perceive as growth areas or specific ways in which your degree program could be improved.</b></p>	<i>f</i>
<p>Classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give more information about what needs to be completed for the course before the semester starts (at orientation).</li> <li>• Less BUSY work and more observations!</li> <li>• Communicating better with online courses.</li> <li>• Explaining projects and group work more in-depth.</li> <li>• Level of engagement.</li> <li>• Communication.</li> <li>• Some of the material is being repeated in other classes, gets tiring.</li> <li>• A lot of information is thrown at you in the beginning.</li> <li>• Organization.</li> <li>• Test scores come back really slow especially ED 501.</li> <li>• Splitting up assignment due dates between classes.</li> <li>• Give more time and information on the larger assignments.</li> <li>• The first day of 401 was A LOT. Too much information.</li> <li>• Not having the courses be as repetitive.</li> </ul>	33

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spread out projects more over the semester (it seems like everything is due at the beginning of the semester and it's a lot to do at once.)</li> <li>• Shorter class time. I rather have more class meetings then 3 hour classes 9:30-4:00 only in two classes is too long.</li> <li>• Class is too long – could make it shorter.</li> <li>• I think some of the professors who teach 3 hour courses teach too long and I think it should be reevaluated if this is the best way to educate children.</li> <li>• Less group projects.</li> <li>• I feel like all projects are due at the same time.</li> <li>• Too many group projects.</li> <li>• Less group work.</li> <li>• I think the department should email every student that signed up for blocks after they register explaining the requirements and let us get a head start on core exam.</li> <li>• Some professors can be very anti-Canvas. Maybe there could be some kind of meeting once a semester before classes start for professors?</li> <li>• Long class periods.</li> <li>• How long we are in class. I feel like we lose focus.</li> <li>• Long classes.</li> <li>• Long class periods.</li> <li>• Having more feedback.</li> <li>• Less online classes (especially for discussion heavy classes)</li> <li>• Ways to engage non-traditional students.</li> <li>• One thing that I've noticed is that some of the subject matter is repeated in all the classes. I think that if the classes were coordinated to address the overlapping topics at the same time, it would be better. As it is, I feel like I hear the same point multiple weeks in a row.</li> <li>• Communication.</li> <li>• The EXNS 480 class could use some improvement in terms of accessibility, communication and structure of class.</li> <li>• I would love to see more examples of how different teaching approaches are used in the classroom.</li> <li>• Less busy work. I find being with teachers/in schools much more helpful.</li> </ul>	
<p>PRAXIS/TEP Interviews:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More time to take/prepare for Praxis.</li> <li>• Changing interview date.</li> <li>• More timely information about interviews and test needed.</li> <li>• Understanding how important tests (praxis) are.</li> <li>• More test prep help.</li> <li>• More focus on the Praxis.</li> <li>• TEP date changed with short notice.</li> <li>• I was upset about the TEP date being changed. It was very short notice for a person who usually works Fridays.</li> <li>• More time to take Praxis content.</li> </ul>	8
<p>Things are going great!! Nothing at all. Overall, impressed.</p>	3
<p>Observations:</p>	3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More excused days for observations. Some of us have class on days we do not have foundations block.</li> <li>• More available days for observation (Tuesdays, Thursdays)</li> <li>• Expand observation placement options (Autauga County).</li> </ul>	
Professors.	1
<b>Please rate your level of satisfaction with the overall quality of your program.</b>	<b><i>f</i></b>
Very Satisfied	29
Satisfied	14
Neutral	1
Unsatisfied	0
Very Unsatisfied	0

### Additional Comments:

Foundations Block professors are ALL excellent!



I almost gave up when I ended up being a semester behind. Thank ya'll for not giving up on me for the future!

This program gave me the confidence to leave my professional career and seek a new career in education.

I'm enjoying it all.

I LOVE this program and all of the professors!