

THE WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM EXIT POLICY FOR CANDIDATES

It is the goal of the West Texas A&M University Educator Preparation Program (WTAMU EPP) to graduate and certify candidates who will become successful educators in the state of Texas. However, there may be circumstances in which the dismissal of a candidate becomes necessary. This policy outlines some of the reasons for dismissal, and the procedures used when the WTAMU EPP makes the decision that dismissal of a candidate is warranted.

Reasons for Dismissal by WTAMU's EPP:

- Violation of the Texas Professional Code or Texas Education Code regulations.
- Undergraduate GPA falls below 2.75 for two semesters. (First semester- the candidate will be placed on probation)
- Graduate Program GPA falls below 2.75. Please note that the WTAMU Graduate School's policy is that if a student's GPA falls below a 3.0, they will be placed on academic probation until the 3.0 GPA requirement has been met. ([Current Student FAQ](#))
- Mutual consent for termination by the public-school partner administrator and the university supervisor due to unforeseen personal circumstances.
- Failure to abide by the policies of the WTAMU EPP, public school partner, or school district.
- Unprofessional conduct towards school personnel, students, parents, and/or community members.
- Failure to address the requirements of a growth plan and show consistent progress toward improvement.
- Non-renewal of teaching contract for interns due to unsatisfactory performance growth.

Other Reasons for Being Exited from the Program:

- A candidate who is inactive for two-long semesters is no longer completing coursework, training, or testing requirements with the WTAMU EPP and is not identified as a completer of the program.

- After two-long semesters, candidates who do not demonstrate progress in the program or complete their clinical experience may be exited or withdrawn from the WTAMU EPP.

Procedure:

1. If a candidate is at risk of termination, they will be notified in writing by the WTAMU EPP detailing the reason for possible dismissal and providing an opportunity for the candidate to address the issue(s).
2. If the candidate does not agree with the decision of program dismissal, they may appeal via the WTAMU EPP Complaint Process. Information on the complaint process can be found online.
3. The final decision on the termination of a candidate will be made by a WTAMU EPP committee based on the provided evidence and circumstances.

Voluntary withdrawal from the WTAMU Educator Preparation Program:

- Candidates who voluntarily choose to withdraw from the WTAMU EPP prior to graduation or certification must complete a written statement outlining the reasons for withdrawal and acknowledging the consequences of graduation without TEA Certification via signed Exit Form.
- A meeting between the candidate and an EPP Director will be required prior to approval for the exit.
- Re-entry into any of the WTAMU EPP educator certification programs will be considered on an individual basis based on the reason for exit/withdrawal/dismissal may be based on test performance, grades, and/or candidate performance in the EPP.
- Fees paid will not be refunded if a participant exits or is terminated from the WTAMU EPP.

Consequences:

Violations of this policy may result in the termination of the candidate from the WTAMU EPP. It is essential that all candidates adhere to the policies and guidelines set forth by the program to ensure the success and professionalism of the WTAMU educator certification program. WTAMU's EPP reserves the right to note your departure was in negative standing.

This policy is in accordance with Texas Administrative Code § 228.31(b, Subchapter D) and aims to maintain the integrity and quality of the WTAMU EPP.

