**Waiver Policy**

Should an English Education teacher candidate not meet the university-wide GPA requirement and not be able to pass a college-ready test with the required score, they have the right to appeal to the English Education faculty for a waiver (allowable for up to 10% of the cohort). The intention of this policy is to make allowances for promising teachers to get additional support and to remove barriers for them. This policy is not intended to assist teacher candidates who demonstrate serious academic, dispositions, or other issues. Please note that a waiver for entry to student teaching is not guaranteed.

The candidate will be contacted by the Student Teaching Coordinator in the first two weeks of the senior fall semester, who will explain this process. In order to apply for a waiver, the candidate will write a letter to the XEE faculty, explaining the following, as relevant to the candidate’s situation:

1. The circumstances that explain the GPA being less than 3.0;
2. What they have done to try to meet the state testing requirements;
3. What steps the candidate is taking and will take to ensure academic success and successful completion of student teaching;
4. Any other circumstances that are relevant to the candidate’s situation.

The English Education faculty will meet in early October to review the teacher candidate’s letter and will use it as well as the following factors to determine if the candidate should be granted a waiver:

* Teacher candidate’s performance in classes taught by XEE faculty,
* Dispositions assessments,
* Patterns of improvement or decline in GPA.

If the XEE faculty grant the waiver to the teacher candidate, it will be in concert with measures of support. These may include the following:

1. Close monitoring of GPA/course performance in the semester before student teaching;
2. Assignment to a student teaching site deemed to be especially supportive by the coordinator;
3. Assignment to/close work with an experienced field instructor;
4. A provisional acceptance: a contract that spells out requirements that must be met in order for the candidate to continue (ex: strong course performance or certain scores at the midpoint conference of student teaching).

Notes: Waivers are issued by cohort and are not transferable to another year’s student teaching cohort. Teacher candidates who have received a waiver but then change their graduation timeline must apply for a new waiver.