

# PROFESSIONAL EXPECTATIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS



The Professional Expectations for prospective teachers required by the Department of Education at Montana State University include communication competencies, intellectual (conceptual, integrative, and quantitative) abilities for problem solving and effective teaching, and professional, behavioral, and social competencies relevant to the performance of a professional educator.

**Communication**  
competencies are  
demonstrated by  
behaviors such as:

- Using the appropriate grammar (syntax, inflection, and word choice) in oral communication
- Speaking distinctly and with confidence
- Communicating with sensitivity to the situation and circumstances of professors, students, peers, and colleagues
- Using correct spelling, standard English language mechanics, and meaningful word choice in written expression

**Intellectual**  
competencies are  
demonstrated by  
behaviors such as:

- Ability to master relevant content in subjects commonly taught in K-12 schools
- Ability to master pedagogical principles and their application in field settings at a level deemed appropriate by the faculty
- Ability to comprehend, memorize, analyze, and synthesize material
- Ability to develop reasoning and decision-making skills appropriate to the practice of teaching

**Professional,  
behavioral, and  
social** competencies  
are demonstrated by  
behaviors such as:

- Completing assignments and meeting responsibilities on time
- Participating fully in class and field settings
- Seeking assistance from instructors and supervisors when appropriate
- Developing positive relationships with peers and education professionals
- Working effectively in groups, actively listening to other viewpoints, and treating individuals with respect
- Perceiving a wide range of interpersonal cues from others and responding appropriately
- Displaying openness to new ideas and constructive criticism and using that criticism to improve performance
- Recognizing one's own strengths and weaknesses and taking personal responsibility to respond appropriately
- Displaying professional appearance, poise, flexibility, and a positive attitude
- Prioritizing responsibilities
- Taking initiative
- Using good judgment, tact, and discretion