

Measure 2 (Initial and Advanced): Satisfaction of employers and stakeholder involvement. (R4.2|R5.3| RA4.1)

Evidence A: Principal Independent Interviews.

Explanation: In the summer of 2021 Newberry College EPP interviewed the principals at 10 area schools (Newberry High, Mid-Carolina Middle, Whitmire Community school, Pomeria Garmany Elementary, Newberry Middle school, Prosperity Riker Elementary, Saluda Middle School, Little Mountain Elementary, Newberry Elementary, Gallman Elementary school). The schools represented elementary schools, middle schools and high schools in two different school districts closest to the EPP. The two districts represent the schools where the majority of Newberry College student teachers are placed. The districts represented also have the highest number of Newberry College graduates in their teaching ranks. The individual schools represented have Newberry college graduates in their teaching ranks and Newberry College student teachers are consistently placed in their schools.

Principal Independent Interviews

The data was collected using narrative inquiry (See Clandinin. J.) a qualitative data collection methodology. The participants were interviewed by the researcher with an acknowledgement of researcher as participant. Meaning the data was collected not in a static question and answer but through participant and researcher dialogue.

Interviewees indicated they were very satisfied with the quality of the student teachers that were placed in their schools. An overwhelming number of principals indicated a desire to hire our students and were very satisfied with Newberry College graduates who were currently working in their schools. One principal indicated “I will take all the graduates you can send me. Newberry College graduates are the best teachers we receive from the various education programs throughout the state”.

Principals were asked concerning professionalism, professional dress and professional conduct for Student teachers, Newberry College graduates and field experience students. All respondents to this inquiry reported being very pleased with professionalism and professional dress for student teachers and Newberry College graduates. With no reported issues or complaints. Several participants did report some issues with Newberry college field experience students and professional demeanor and dress. There has been a concerted effort to work with pre-professional students on this issue and can also be attributed to the general growth and development of candidates as we start field experience freshman year. The fact that there was no issue with completers indicates that professional growth occurs throughout the student’s time at Newberry College.

Lesson Planning and content knowledge were also discussed with the participating principals with generally favorable responses. Principals indicated students were prepared and were able to effectively plan lessons and provide instruction. A previous inquiry in 2018 had indicated that there was an area for growth in instructional planning, instructional planning and assessment was increased by the addition of a class EDU 350 Advanced assessment. At least in these discussions planning and instruction was indicated to be at expected levels for first year teachers or beyond expected levels for first year teachers.

In general respondents indicated a satisfaction with program completers planning, instruction and professionalism.