

Dear Student:

We are pleased that you have made a decision to pursue a career in the field of education. The field of teaching has changed dramatically in the past ten years and the teacher education programs at Shepherd University are evolving to stay on the cutting edge of preparing teachers for this changing role of teachers. Our current emphasis on Teacher as Reflective Problem Solver is one of the most contemporary themes to be found in the field. With this emphasis comes a unique blend in theory of child development and how children learn coupled with practical applications of this theory in the classroom. In addition, we are encouraging our students to become learners who move from becoming memorizers of information to becoming demonstrators of competence through decision-making and application of knowledge they have constructed. This focus on reflection and problem solving may be new to many of our students. It will take a serious commitment on your part to engage in dialogue, introspection and construction of knowledge.

In an effort to assist you in your progress through the Teacher Education Program, we have prepared this handbook. It will present to you the Policies and Procedures of the Teacher Education Program in general. We encourage you to read this thoroughly. It is your responsibility to know the policies and procedures, deadlines and requirements. If you should have any questions, your advisor or the Department Chairperson will be available to talk with you.

The policies and procedures contained in this handbook at the time of your admission to the Teacher Education Program will be in effect for you. Keep this handbook accessible for reference throughout your tenure at Shepherd University.

Sincerely,

The Department of Education and Specialization Programs Faculty