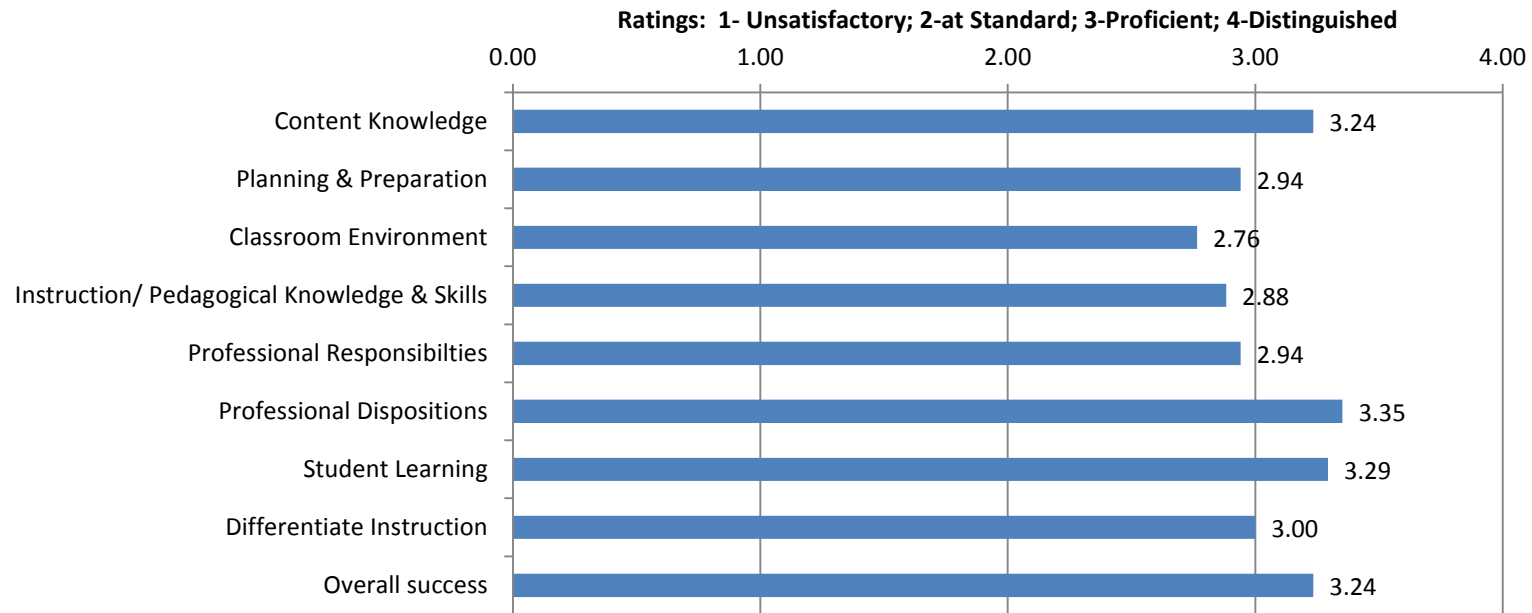


Data collected from Student Teachers for 2012-2013 school year

Average Ratings from Secondary Student Teachers 2012-2013 (17 responses)



Comments from Secondary St Teachers

1 Don't think I could have been better prepared anywhere else.

2 I think the NWC Education Dept. is outstanding in knowledge preparation. Nevertheless, I feel they could expand their range/abilities in advanced preparation for their students. For those secondary students who know they will be studying abroad or doing an internship, it would be helpful if an education teacher outreach to them and provide information about doing seminars early (even if it's a whole year) and setting up their credential file early as well. These are things that I felt weren't discussed early on and could have lightened confusion, especially upon return from my study abroad.

Many thanks to all of the education professors. My experience in the NWC education program overall felt short and sweet but will have a long lasting impact on my career.

3 I feel fairly knowledgeable in my content area (well, I wish more lit. classes were required, because I wasn't prepared to teach American Lit.). But some things in the classroom I didn't feel prepared for. I think students need more explicit instruction on how to give good directions and how to really set up classroom procedures (or thinking through various procedures and decided what they need). I don't feel I know enough about how to create classroom policies--or what I should be looking for. Perhaps, teachers could share their own experience creating policies (ie: late work policy, behavior management policy, discipline policy etc). I would also like to create a syllabus for my classes and wish I knew exactly how to do that. Maybe all of these things are something it takes time to learn--and you just have to experiment. It was frustrating because one of my co-op teachers student taught for a full 6 months and felt that Northwestern's required 14 weeks wasn't enough--I felt prepared by my education and that I had been given good access to resources. And what I didn't know I always felt I could ask and someone would kindly answer. Even though I student taught abroad, I felt supported from back home, which was a big bonus. The student teacher seminars were extremely helpful-- and I was glad to attend them even before I was teaching-- I only wish I could have skyped in and attended more! : O)

4 My biggest problem with the Northwestern Education department is that it is so elementary ed focused that those secondary teachers are lost on what they need to do to get into the education program, how to get emails from the education program, etc. Communication is lacking with the secondary education students, probably because we do not have as many classes with the education profs, but something needs to change to help those want to be teachers navigate.

5 Overall, I have felt very prepared for my student teaching experience. Northwestern College has provided me with many valuable learning opportunities that have prepared me beforehand and helped me grow during my experience. I felt very well prepared in my content area and my pedagogy. In terms of classroom management I felt like the education department had instilled in me a good perspective and attitude that facilitated the development of solid classroom management procedures as I was student teaching. I firmly believe that my education at NWC gave me all of the tools that I needed to get my first job.

6 I have felt like I had very little to no support from NWC while student teaching. Even though I am student teaching through Chicago Semester, support from the NW Ed Department would have been appreciated. Even replying to emails was non-existent. Yes, you are not directly responsible for me here, but I am still representing NWC and would have really appreciated some level of interest shown.

As far as prepping me for student teaching, I felt as if my courses barely touched the surface of classroom management. I felt in no way prepared to run a classroom when it came time to actually do it. I have also felt ill-equipped to deal with parents and administration.

Yes, I knew how to write an awesome lesson plan. Yes, I knew my content area. Yes, I knew how to engage with students. But I've realized that's really only half the job of being a teacher.

7 Its a great experience. I think that it's a good way to get a taste of the first years of teaching - success, frustration, not enough time, etc.

8 If at standard is meeting requirements, Proficient should be doing even better than that. I can hardly imagine having Distinguished rankings, so do not be offended that I only chose that answer one time. As for At Standard, I chose that twice. Once, it was for myself on differentiating instruction. It's not that NWC didn't prepare me. That is simply a personal struggle of mine. I tend to simplify the entire lesson so that everybody can understand it, but I don't always challenge my quicker students. I've really only differentiated in Spanish, so that is a conscious effort at this point.

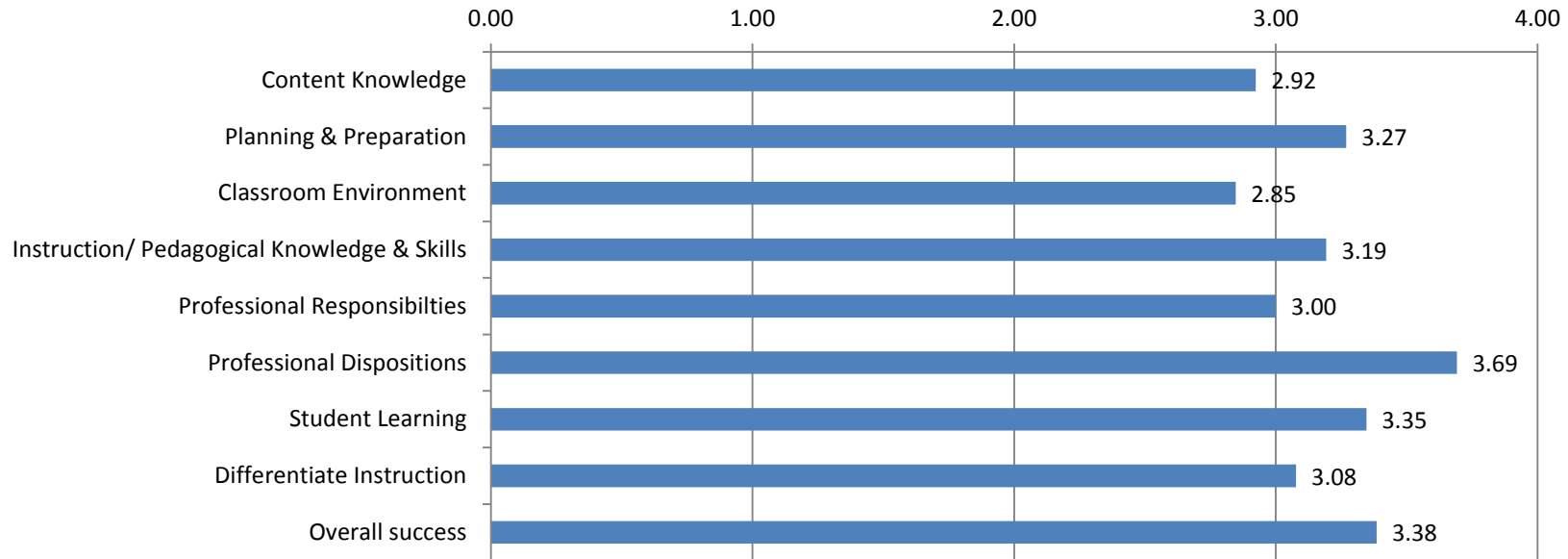
The At Standard I gave Northwestern was in regards to preparation for professional responsibilities. I feel like we hardly, if ever, discussed communication with parents. We learned how to make a news letter, but parent contact was always that vague concept we said was key, but never really detailed what that looks like. I wish we could have had practical examples of what a phone call to a parent looked like, be that for redirection purposes or for praise. I wish we could have talked about how often one should be contacting parents. What is it our responsibility to take care of (a role I tend to fall to) and when is it ok to contact parents (a step I rarely take). I also think we spent a lot of time learning how to make a lesson plan and execute it, which was great, but we didn't really have the opportunity to reflect on those WITH a professor after teaching it, so we could see what it was to actually alter lesson plans after reflection. I do that, but I think we could have used more instruction.

These are just my observations. I know NWC, and particularly the education program, constantly seeks to improve their services. I hope my honest and thorough feedback can help in that regard.

Overall, I think Northwestern has been a wonderful preparation for my student teaching, but nothing can really prepare you until that final step, the actual student teaching, five days a week with a cooperating teacher. Thank you for aiding this process.

Average Ratings from Elementary Student Teachers 2012-2013 (26 responses)

Ratings: 1-Unsatisfactory; 2-At Standard; 3-Proficient; 4-Distinguished



Comments from Elementary St Teachers:

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- 1 I have received many comments saying I do a great job and have been asked would I consider a job down here many times!

 - 2 The education department has definitely done a great job of preparing me for student teaching. Obviously, one can't be fully prepared to be thrown into someone else's classroom but I feel as prepared as I possibly could be without experiencing teaching directly :)

 - 3 I enjoyed the program.

4 Now that I am in the phase of Student Teaching, I wish I could have had more instruction in classroom management strategies and procedures. It would have been nice coming into this step with more knowledge about how to get the desired behaviors from students. I also think it would be good to focus on what students are expected to know at each level of education. I came in not really knowing what to expect of my students, and I think it would be nice to have more classes on that at NWC.

5 I think the Education Department excels at preparing us with making sure we can reflect on our teaching, collaborating, and with pedagogy, but I don't think that I spent enough time working with content. Before I teach something I want to make sure that I know what I am talking about, and I feel like I spend a ton of time reviewing all of the skills I need to be able to understand the lesson myself. I know that I have learned all of this content at one time, but most of the things I have been working with in my student teaching experience so far, I have not seen since middle school or before. I also wish we could have used technology more, like google docs, because we use them all the time right now, but I had not used them at all when I was taking classes.

6 I think it would be great if you required a Classroom Management class.

7 I didn't rate myself as distinguished because I am still student teaching and I am still learning!

8 I think that NWC does an incredible job placing people that want to be teachers in the classroom immediately. This helps students understand if this is really the path they want to continue on. One area that I know is difficult for NWC to improve on is their ability to relate to classrooms with such diverse needs, both academic and racial. I am student teaching in a school that has such a high diversity level in both those areas that I do not think that any school in the area of NWC could have prepared me for. I think it's important that teachers really emerge themselves in multicultural settings because you can really learn a lot.

9 As far as being prepared for the content knowledge I would be teaching I felt like I learned a lot of unnecessary math topics. Taking College Geometry in no way helped me teach middle school math. I feel like there could be a better use of this time/credit.

Technology changes every year, every month even. I think future education students should wait until their Jr./Sr. year to take Instructional Technology. I made the mistake of taking that course right away when I got to NW. Fortunately I had a techy teacher and I'm techy myself so I caught on quickly.

I'd say I was successful as there was a teacher who quit last Thursday and the entire math department vied for me to return to Salem and teach the remainder of the year. The principal tried working with HR to get me an emergency teaching license and my cooperating teacher called me up the next day to encourage me to start working on getting my Oregon teaching license. HR said no, but they want me to apply if budget cuts don't eliminate the job.

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- 10 Something I always wanted to see from my professors was a variation from the typical mostly-lecture format. Maybe use some more of the pedagogy/ techniques that you teach us to use?
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- 11 The education department has definitely done a great job of preparing me for student teaching. Obviously, one can't be fully prepared to be thrown into someone else's classroom but I feel as prepared as I possibly could be without experiencing teaching direction. :)
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- 12 I very much enjoyed my time in the teacher education program at Northwestern. There will always be things that can only happen on the job when it comes to learning. And I think that is the only area I felt under prepared for. Northwestern does a wonderful job of getting their future educators in the classroom so that they are ready to be in the classroom and best equipped to do so.
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- 13 A larger focus being put on classroom experience would provide a better preparation to education students.
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