

UNK TE Philosophy for Requiring the Unit Plan/Lesson Plan Assignments

The UNK lesson plan template serves as a foundational tool for preservice teachers to develop their instructional planning expertise. While the initial stages may involve detailed, written elements, the ultimate goal is for students to internalize the structure and components of a high-quality lesson. This philosophy emphasizes a scaffolded approach that fosters deep understanding and automaticity in lesson planning.

Learning Through Doing:

- **Extensive Writing:** Students engage in extensive writing when first encountering the template. This initial investment allows them to grapple with each component and its purpose within the overall lesson structure.
- **Collaboration and Discussion:** Preservice teachers collaborate with professors and peers throughout the process, fostering critical thinking and refining their planning skills.
- **Practical Application:** The written lesson plans become the stepping stones for practical application in various classroom settings.

The Science Behind the Template:

The UNK lesson plan template reflects the science of effective teaching. By explicitly addressing key instructional practices, the template guides students to:

- **Craft Engaging Activities:** The template prompts preservice teachers to consider anticipatory sets and connecting to prior knowledge, which are crucial for student engagement and learning.
- **Formulate Higher-Order Questions:** Writing out questions encourages preservice teachers to move beyond low-level inquiries and develop questions that promote critical thinking and deeper understanding.
- **Plan for Efficient Lesson Flow:** Mapping out the lesson sequence promotes time management and ensures a smooth flow from one activity to the next.
- **Incorporate Effective Closure:** The template emphasizes crafting a strong closure to solidify learning and connect to future instruction.

Preparedness:

The UNK lesson plan template encourages preservice teachers to envision the entire lesson. This visualization serves several purposes:

- **Enhanced Preparation:** Seeing the lesson unfold beforehand increases preparedness and builds confidence, especially for new teachers.
- **Flexibility:** A strong foundation allows teachers to adapt to classroom situations while maintaining focus on the learning objectives.
- **Confidence and Expertise:** By mastering the planning process, preservice teachers feel empowered to deliver engaging and effective lessons.

Performance-Based Assessment:

The completed lesson plan serves as an authentic assessment of preservice teacher knowledge. It showcases their understanding of:

- Standards and Objectives
- Effective Questioning Techniques
- Engaging Instructional Strategies
- Assessment Strategies
- Transition Strategies
- Classroom Management

This approach goes beyond a traditional exam, providing a comprehensive picture of a preservice teacher's readiness to deliver high-quality instruction.