NCATE Unit  
Mission Statement

The mission of teacher education at SUNY Cortland is to build upon the foundation of liberal learning in the development of teachers who have exceptional pedagogical knowledge and skills. The foundation of liberal learning informs the professional education strand in an innovative thematic approach that emphasizes personal responsibility, global understanding and social justice. Graduates of SUNY Cortland’s teacher education program will be prepared to think critically, utilize technology, communicate effectively, understand and value diversity, contribute to their communities, and make a difference in the lives of their students.
Conceptual Framework

Theme: Teacher education at SUNY Cortland is built upon the foundation of liberal learning and the commitment to the development of teachers who have exceptional pedagogical knowledge and skills. The foundation of liberal learning informs the professional education strand in an innovative thematic approach that emphasizes personal responsibility and global understanding that encourages the construction of communities committed to enacting social justice. We prepare our teacher candidates to know the world in ways they do not when they come to us, and to spark or fuel a love of teaching and of learning that is so strong and so appealing that their future students will be drawn into it themselves. Graduates of SUNY Cortland's teacher education program will be prepared to contribute to their communities and to the democratic development of society.

Liberal Learning

Graduates of SUNY Cortland's teacher education program are well grounded in the arts and sciences. They possess in-depth knowledge of the subject area to be taught. Candidates reflect a strong commitment to:

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY
• Examine issues of integrity, ethics, commitment, and moral choices

SOCIAL JUSTICE
• Foster respect for individuals' abilities and disabilities
• Develop an awareness of issues of social justice, equality, and democracy facing our society

GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING
• Experience the meaning and reality of a global commitment from multiple perspectives

About Our Tree

The Cortland apple tree was selected as the logo for the teacher education program because it best symbolizes the goals of the program. The extensive root system is the tree's foundation and gives the tree strength. SUNY Cortland's teacher education program is philosophically rooted in liberal learning reflecting our belief that good teaching, active citizenship, and a rich and fulfilled life all require a sound foundation in the liberal arts and sciences.

Teacher Education

Learning Outcomes/Expectations of Candidates
SUNY Cortland's teacher education program ensures that candidates have the knowledge, skills, and dispositions required for effective teaching. By the conclusion of the program, candidates:

- Demonstrate a solid foundation in the arts and sciences.
- Possess in-depth knowledge of the subject area to be taught.
- Demonstrate good moral character.
- Understand how students learn and develop.
- Manage classrooms structured in a variety of ways to promote a safe learning environment.
- Know and apply various disciplinary models to manage student behavior.
- Apply a variety of teaching strategies to develop a positive teaching-learning environment where all students are encouraged to achieve their highest potential.
- Integrate curriculum among disciplines, and balance historical and contemporary research, theory, and practice.
- Use multiple and authentic forms of assessment to analyze teaching and student learning and to plan curriculum and instruction to meet the needs of individual students.
- Promote parental involvement and collaborate effectively with other staff, the community, higher education, other agencies, and cultural institutions, as well as parents and other caregivers, for the benefit of students.
- Demonstrate sufficient technology skills and the ability to integrate technology into classroom teaching/learning.
- Foster respect for individuals abilities and disabilities and an understanding and appreciation of variations of ethnicity, culture, language, gender, age, class, and sexual orientation.
- Continue to develop professionally as reflective practitioners who are committed to an on-going scholarly inquiry.