DATA SAY:
The overwhelming majority of teacher candidates admitted to the program finishes it and finds employment in the school system. Many of those go on to graduate study. The program minimum GPA is 3.0 in content courses, and all of our candidates meet this requirement prior to their internship. Our candidates surpass the 80% Praxis II pass rate required by the National Council for Accrediting Teacher Education (NCATE) and its assessment unit in the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

SO WHAT:
NCATE: In 2010 NCATE advised that the program needed the following: (1) In EDEN 4553, Methods and Materials, the assessment rubric needed stronger alignment with NCTE standards; (2) the curriculum needed a stronger component of non-Western literature; (3) the supervision of the teaching interns needed more comprehensive collaboration between the clinical supervisor (the classroom teacher) and the university supervisor; and (4) the curriculum needed a stronger component of oral communication.

CCSS: In 2012-2013, schools began implementing Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in secondary English. These standards include increased rigor in English content, stronger emphasis on “informational texts,” project-based instruction, and new, more-authentic assessments of students.

HOW WE CHANGED:
NCATE: By 2012-2013, our English BSE Program addressed all the NCATE requirements through these changes: revising the rubric for the Three-week Unit, requiring a non-Western literature course for all candidates, increasing collaboration between clinical and university supervisors (clinicians help grade assignments and now advise our BSE Committee), and requiring an Oral Communications course.

CCSS: In 2012-2013, we began adapting some of the required courses to help candidates understand CCSS and apply the methods needed to meet those standards: (1) EDEN 4553 (Methods and Materials) uses textbooks that teach CCSS; the course also models the project-based assignments and assessments; ENG 3583, Literature for Adolescents, includes informational texts; (3) ENG 4043, Theory in the Teaching of Composition, includes argumentation and writing across the curriculum.

WHAT WE GOT:
NCATE: Our program is fully accredited by NCATE until 2015. In September 2013 we will early-apply to renew our accreditation with NCATE/NCTE. Toward this goal, we are completing a “self-study” based on our program data, including data on our changes since the 2010 accreditation.

CCSS: Our candidates are better prepared to meet the new state standards.