



**College of Education &
Behavioral Science**

**Employers' Questionnaire for
Initial Completers
Fall 2020**

Compiled by:
Dean's Office &
Professional Education Programs Office

Introduction

The purpose of this questionnaire was to gather feedback from principals and superintendents on the performance of Arkansas State University's recent graduates of the teacher education program. Recent graduates are defined as beginning teachers who have worked in the respective school district for three or fewer years. Data gathered in the report is one of many sources used to document the quality of programs to prepare teacher candidates, determine application of professional knowledge, dispositions, and skills—aligned with Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) and Teacher Excellence Support System (TESS) standards—associated with teacher effectiveness in classrooms. This data informs program revision initiatives to suit the needs of Arkansas schools.

Method

Participants

Participants in the employers' questionnaire were sent to principals and superintendents from schools who have participated in Arkansas State University's teacher internship placement program. The questionnaire was sent to eighty-seven superintendents (87) and three-hundred and forty-four principals (344). Of the eighty-seven superintendents (87), twenty-nine (29) completed the survey resulting in a return rate of thirty-three percent (33%). Of the three-hundred and forty-four principals (344), one hundred and fourteen (114) completed the survey resulting in a return of thirty-three percent (33%). Of the combined four-hundred and thirty-one (431) participants, one hundred and forty-three (143) completed the questionnaire resulting in an overall thirty-three percent (33%) return rate. Participants were not required to complete every question; therefore, missing data is possible in completed surveys.

Survey

The questionnaire (see Appendix A) was built using Qualtrics Survey Software and distributed digitally during the months of October and November 2020. In addition to demographic questions, the questionnaire is divided into three sections: rating of recent graduates' demonstration of knowledge, skills, and dispositions relative to the four program outcomes and ten InTASC standards, recent graduates' demonstrated performance relative to school professional responsibilities, and the overall employer impression of recent graduates of the teacher education program. The questions in the knowledge, skills, and dispositions section were tested by Dr. Wayne Wilkinson and were found to be valid and reliable (see Appendix B).

Procedure

A distribution list for principals and superintendents in the sample was constructed using email addresses obtained from the Arkansas Department of Education website. The questionnaire was initially distributed October 23, 2020, with follow up emails sent October 30, November 6, and 11, 2020. The survey ended November 16, 2020. A single distribution list was used targeting principals and superintendents.

Results

Demographics

School Type and Level. Of the one hundred and forty-three respondents, 99% (n=141) were from public schools and 1% (n=2) were from private schools, with 39.16% (n=56) indicating they were elementary school principals, 13.29% (n=19) indicating they were middle school principals, and 27.27% (n=39) indicating they were high school principals. 20.28% (n=29) indicated they were superintendents who completed the survey.

School Setting. Table 1 is provided to describe the number and percentage of respondents by urban, suburban, and rural school settings. The greatest number of respondents were from a rural setting (78.87%, n=112), followed by an urban (13.38%, n=19) and suburban (7.75%, n=11) setting.

Table 1: Respondents by School Setting

| Programs | Total Respondents | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Urban | 19 | 13.38% |
| Suburban | 11 | 7.75% |
| Rural | 112 | 78.87% |
| Grand Total of Respondents | 142 | 100.00% |

School Enrollment. Of the one hundred and fourteen responding principals, 66.67% (n=76) indicated school enrollment was between 101-500 students, 31.58% (n=36) was between 501-1000 students, and 1.75% (n=2) was more than 1000 students. No principal indicated fewer than 100 students.

High Needs Districts. For the purposes of this survey, a “high needs school district” is defined as one in which the poverty rate is 20% or greater and at least one math or science teacher is teaching out of field. Of the respondents, 66.90% (n=95) indicated their district met the definition of high needs.

Teachers in the Building. Of the one hundred and fourteen responding principals, 58.77% (n=67) indicated 26-50 teachers in the building, 25.44% (n=29) indicated fewer than 25 teachers in the building, 13.16% (n=15) indicated 51-75 teachers in the building, and 2.63% (n=3) indicated more than 75 teachers in the building.

Beginning Teachers. Of the one hundred and fourteen responding principals, 92.11% (n=105) indicated fewer than 5 beginning teachers and 7.89% (n=9) indicated 6-10 beginning teachers. No responding principals indicated 11-15 beginning teachers and more than 15 beginning teachers.

Licensure Levels. Of the one hundred and fourteen responding principals, 53.51% (n=61) indicated the majority of teachers in the building hold K-6 licensure, 36.84% (n=42) indicated the majority of teachers in the building hold 7-12 licensure, 7.90% (n=9) indicated the majority of teachers in the building hold 5-9 licensure, and 1.75% (n=2) indicated the majority of teachers holding a K-12 license.

Beginning Teachers' Licensure Levels. Of the one hundred and thirteen responding principals, 54.87% (n=62) indicated the majority of beginning teachers hold a K-6 license, 33.63% (n=38) hold a 7- 12 license, 7.96% (n=9) hold a 5-9 license, and 3.54% (n=4) hold a K-12 license.

District Enrollment. Of all respondents, 33.80% (n=48) indicated a district enrollment of more than 2000 students, 34.51% (n=49) indicated a district enrollment of 751-1500, 21.13% (n=30) indicated a district enrollment of fewer than 750, and 10.56% (n=15) indicated a district enrollment of 1501-2000.

Teachers in the District. Of all respondents, 33.10% (n=47) indicated more than 200 teachers in their district, 16.90% (n=24) indicated 126-200 teachers in their district, 21.83% (n=31) indicated fewer than 75 teachers in their district, 28.17% (n=40) indicated 76-125 teachers in their district.

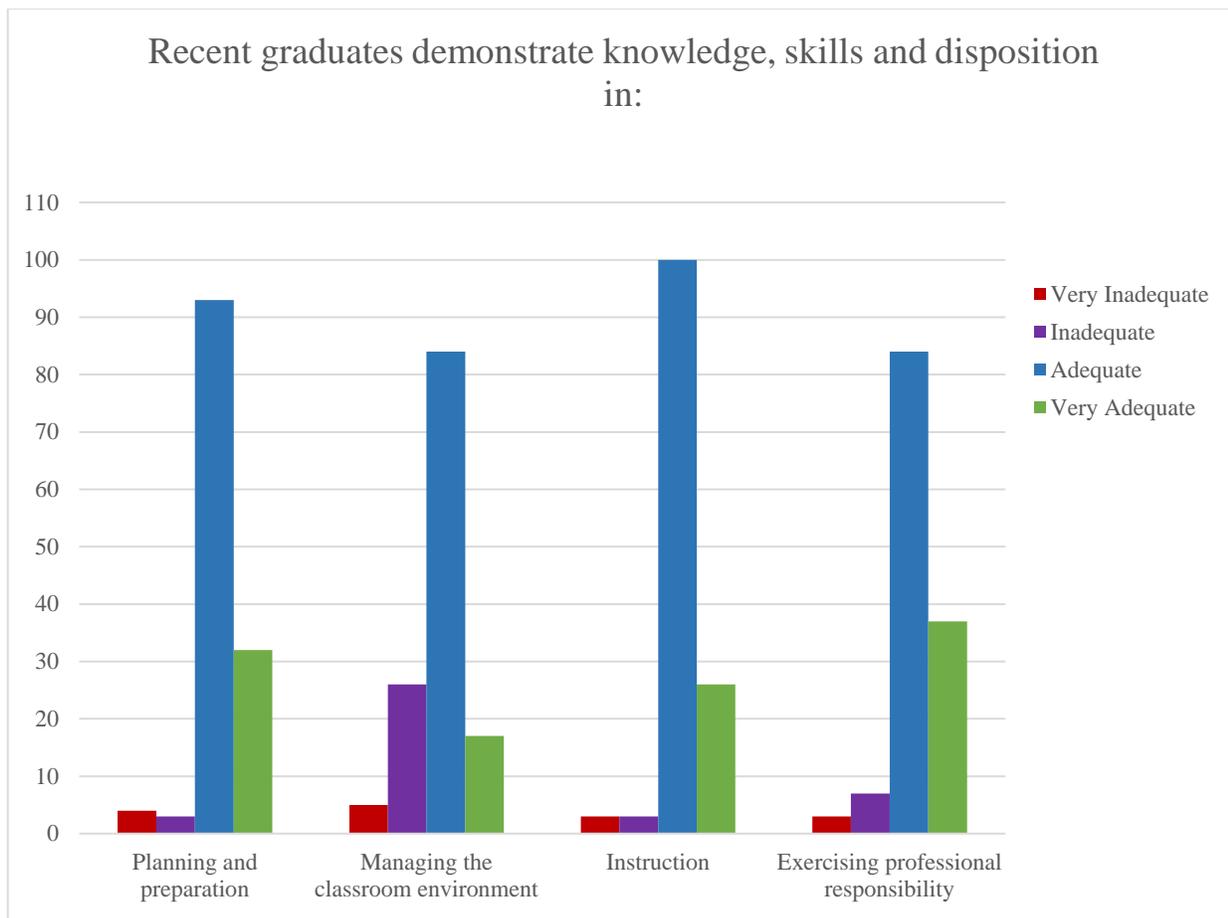
Beginning Teachers in the District. Of all respondents, 49.30% (n=70) indicated fewer than 10 beginning teachers in the district, 11.97% (n=17) indicated more than 25 beginning

teachers, 25.35% (n=36) indicated 11-15 beginning teachers, and 13.38% (n=19) indicated 16-25 beginning teachers in the district.

Program Learning Outcomes

Figure 1 indicates the performance of beginning teachers relative to the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) four learning outcomes based on the work of Charlotte Danielson using the Teacher Excellence and Support System (TESS): planning and preparation, managing the classroom environment, instruction, and exercising professional responsibility. TESS is aligned with the ten InTASC standards. Participants responded to the statements “Recent graduates demonstrate knowledge, skills, and dispositions in: Planning and preparation, Managing the classroom environment, Instruction, and Exercising professional responsibility”. Administrators were able to choose “Very inadequate”, “Inadequate”, “Adequate”, or “Very adequate” as rating scale options for each statement. The results indicated that administrators perceive A-State beginning teachers’ performance as adequate or very adequate (combined) ranging from 76.52% to 95.45%. Specifically, the respondents rated A-State graduates from 92.37% adequate/very adequate in exercising professional responsibility, 94.70% adequate/very adequate in planning and preparation, 95.45% adequate/very adequate in instruction, and 76.52% adequate/very adequate in managing the classroom environment. The area that needs the greatest improvement, even though above 50%, is managing the classroom with 76.52% adequate/very adequate.

Figure 1: Performance of Beginning Teachers



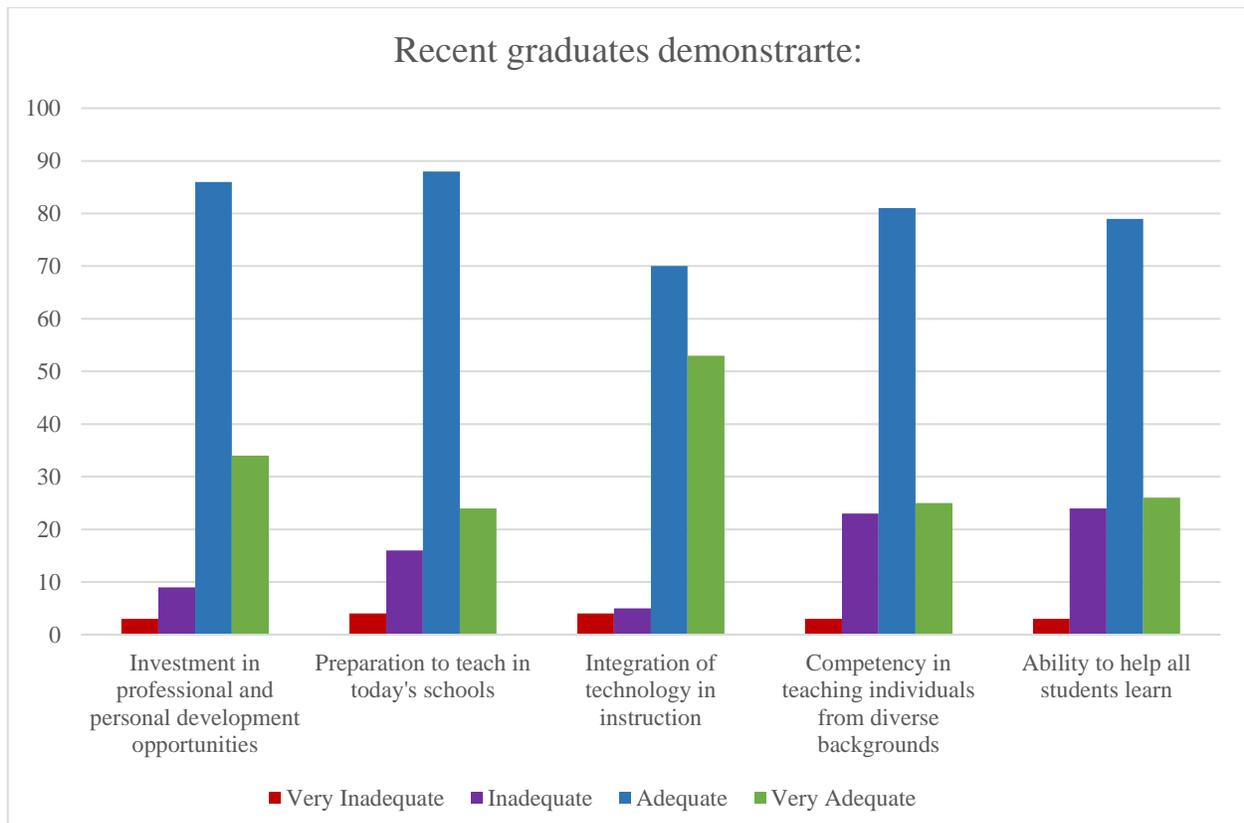
| Question | Very Inadequate | Inadequate | Adequate | Very Adequate | Total |
|--|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| Planning and preparation | 3.03% 4 | 2.27% 3 | 70.45% 93 | 24.24% 32 | 132 |
| Managing the classroom environment | 3.79% 5 | 19.70% 26 | 63.64% 84 | 12.88% 17 | 132 |
| Instruction | 2.27% 3 | 2.27% 3 | 75.76% 100 | 19.70% 26 | 132 |
| Exercising professional responsibility | 2.29% 3 | 5.34% 7 | 64.12% 84 | 28.24% 37 | 131 |

School Professional Responsibilities

Figure 2 shows A-State beginning teachers’ abilities regarding five school professional responsibilities. Of one hundred and thirty-two respondents, 90.91% of recent graduates had an “Adequate” or “Very adequate” investment in professional and personal development opportunities, 84.85% of respondents indicated graduates were adequately or very adequately

prepared to teach in today's schools, 93.18% of respondents indicated graduates were adequately or very adequately able to integrate technology in instruction, 80.30% responded graduates had adequate or very adequate competency in teaching individuals from diverse backgrounds, and 79.55% responded graduates were adequate or very adequate in the ability to help all students learn.

Figure 2: School Professional Responsibilities



| Question | Very Inadequate | Inadequate | Adequate | Very Adequate | Total |
|---|-----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| Investment in professional and personal development opportunities | 2.27% 3 | 6.82% 9 | 65.15% 86 | 25.76% 34 | 132 |
| Preparation to teach in today's schools | 3.03% 4 | 12.12% 16 | 66.67% 88 | 18.18% 24 | 132 |
| Integration of technology in instruction | 3.03% 4 | 3.79% 5 | 53.03% 70 | 40.15% 53 | 132 |
| Competency in teaching individuals from diverse backgrounds | 2.27% 3 | 17.42% 23 | 61.36% 81 | 18.94% 25 | 132 |
| Ability to help all students learn | 2.27% 3 | 18.18% 24 | 59.85% 79 | 19.70% 26 | 132 |

Overall Impression/Hiring of Graduates

Figure 3 indicates the results of two general areas: overall impression of A-State recent graduates regarding their performance as beginning teachers and the likelihood of employers' interest in hiring future program graduates. Of one hundred and thirty-two respondents, 66.67% (n=88) indicated the overall impression of recent program graduates were "Adequate", 23.48% (n=31) indicated an overall impression of "Very Adequate", 5.30% (n=7) indicated an overall impression of "Inadequate", and 4.55% (n=6) indicated an overall impression of "Very Inadequate".

Figure 3: Impression of Recent Graduates

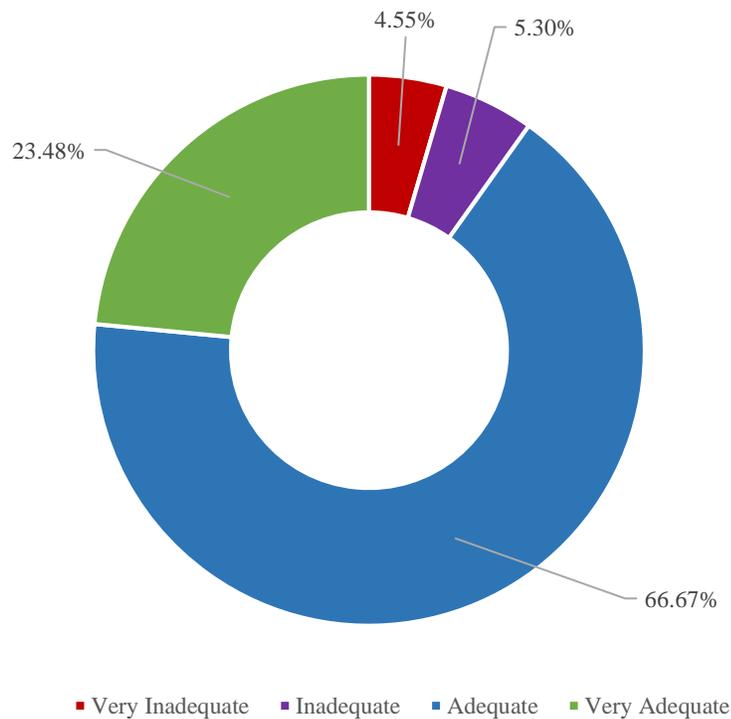
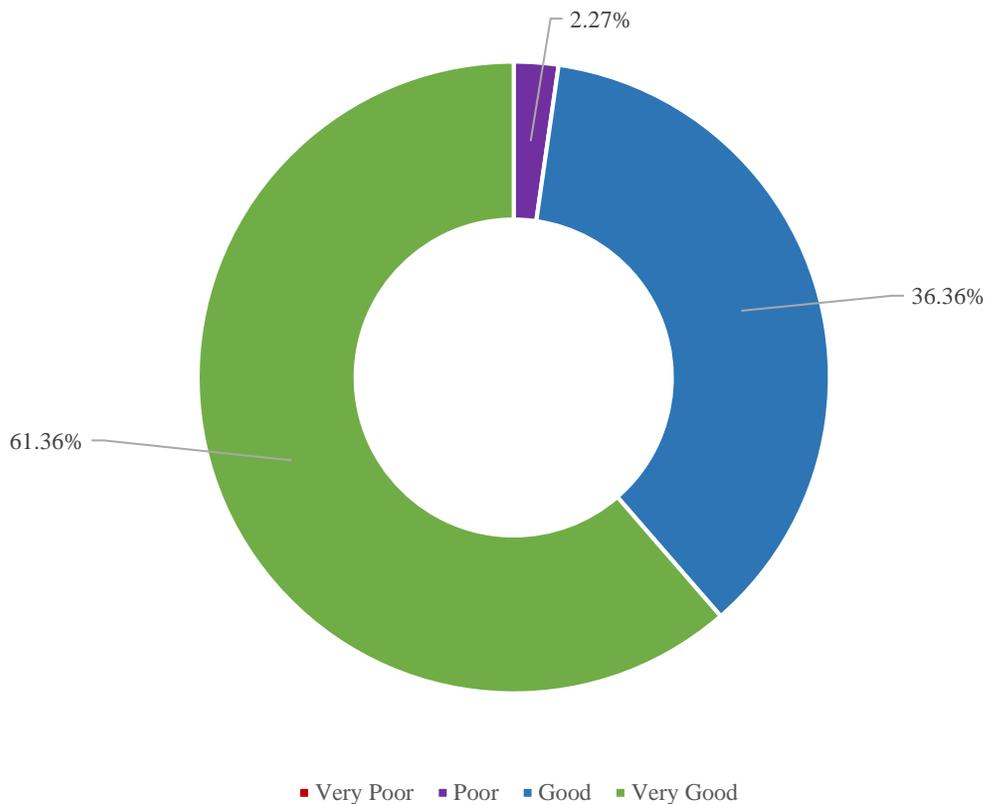


Figure 4 indicates the likelihood of the employers' interest in hiring future program graduates. Of one hundred and thirty-two respondents, 97.72% (n=129) indicated the likelihood of hiring future graduates as "Good" or "Very Good". Only 2.27% (n=3) indicated the likelihood of hiring future graduates as "Poor". None indicated the likelihood as "Very Poor".

Figure 4: Employers' Interest in Hiring Future Graduates



Dissemination of the Data

Three departments (Teacher Education; Educational Leadership, Curriculum, and Special Education; and Health, Physical Education, and Sport Sciences) received an employers' questionnaire report. The results were disseminated to the department chairs and program coordinators to be used as one source of data to share with faculty for reflection and discussion regarding program actions to be taken. The report was also sent to the Initial Programs Assessment Committee (IPAC) for review and analysis.

Appendix

A

Initial Programs Employer Survey

Start of Block: Please select the following that best describes your school:

Your opinion is very valuable to us! As you complete this survey, only reflect on your overall satisfaction of recent graduates from the A-State College of Education and Behavioral Science Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) who are beginning teachers (three or fewer years of teaching).

Q1 School Type:

- Public (1)
 - Private (2)
-

Q2 Setting

- Urban (1)
 - Suburban (2)
 - Rural (3)
-

Q3 Is your school district considered "high needs"? (Poverty rate is 20% or greater and at least one math or science teacher is teaching out of field?)

- Yes (1)
 - No (2)
-

Q4 School Level

- Elementary (1)
 - Middle (2)
 - High (3)
 - District (4)
-

Q5 School Enrollment:

- Fewer than 100 (1)
 - 101-500 (2)
 - 501-1000 (3)
 - More than 1000 (4)
-

Q6 Number of Teachers in Building

- Fewer than 25 (1)
 - 26-50 (2)
 - 51-75 (3)
 - More than 75 (4)
-

Q7 Majority of all teachers in building hold this level of licensure

- K-6 (1)
 - 5-9 (2)
 - 7-12 (3)
 - K-12 (4)
-

Q8 Number of Beginning Teachers

- Fewer than 5 (1)
 - 6-10 (2)
 - 11-15 (3)
 - More than 15 (4)
-

Q9 Majority of beginning teachers hold this level of licensure

- K-6 (1)
 - 5-9 (2)
 - 7-12 (3)
 - K-12 (4)
-

Q10 District Enrollment

- Fewer than 750 (1)
 - 751-1500 (2)
 - 1501-1999 (3)
 - More than 2000 (4)
-

Q11 Number of Teachers in District

- Fewer than 75 (1)
 - 76-125 (2)
 - 126-200 (3)
 - More than 200 (4)
-

Q12 Number of Beginning Teachers in District

- Fewer than 10 (1)
- 11-15 (2)
- 16-25 (3)
- More than 25 (4)

End of Block: Please select the following that best describes your school:

Start of Block: Block 1

As a current employer of graduates from the A-State College of Education and Behavioral Science Educator Preparation Program, please rate your overall satisfaction of our recent graduates who are beginning teachers (3 or fewer years of teaching) in each of the following areas:

Q13 Recent graduates demonstrate knowledge, skills and disposition in:

| | Very Inadequate (1) | Inadequate (2) | Adequate (3) | Very Adequate (4) |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Planning and preparation (1) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Managing the classroom environment (2) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Instruction (3) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Exercising professional responsibility (4) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Q14 Recent graduates demonstrate:

| | Very Inadequate (1) | Inadequate (2) | Adequate (3) | Very Adequate (4) |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Investment in professional and personal development opportunities (1) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Preparation to teach in today's schools (2) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Integration of technology in instruction (3) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Competency in teaching individuals from diverse backgrounds (4) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ability to help all students learn (5) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

End of Block: Block 1

Start of Block: Block 2

Overall impression of recent graduates of A-State College of Education and Behavioral Science Educator Preparation Program:

Q15 My overall impression of recent graduates of the program.

- Very Inadequate (1)
 - Inadequate (2)
 - Adequate (3)
 - Very Adequate (4)
-

Q16 Likelihood this school will have interest in hiring future program graduates.

- Very Poor (1)
- Poor (2)
- Good (3)
- Very Good (4)

End of Block: Block 2

Appendix B

Validity & Reliability of the Survey of Employer Satisfaction with A-State Graduates

Dr. Wayne Wilkinson, Assistant Professor of Psychology

A sample of 21 superintendents and principals from Craighead County completed a survey to obtain a quantification of the content validity for the four key items from the Survey of Employer Satisfaction with A-State Graduates. For each of the four items, the respondents were asked to complete a series of questions asking how well each item served as a valid indicator of the relevant TESS and InTASC Standards. These responses were made on a response scale ranging from 0 (*Not at all Valid*) to 3 (*Extremely Valid*) with verbal anchors provided on each interval of the response scale.

For each of the four items from the Survey of Employer Satisfaction with A-State Graduates, a composite variable of content validity judgments was created by averaging the relevant validity perceptions items (ranging from 3 to 7 items). The results are summarized in the table below.

| Variable | Reliability | <i>M</i> (<i>SD</i>) | K^2 (<i>p</i>) | <i>t</i> (20) |
|---------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Item 1 Validity (6 items) | .92 | 2.17 (0.54) | 0.71 (.70) | 5.74 |
| Item 2 Validity (3 items) | .88 | 2.27 (0.58) | 3.06 (.22) | 6.05 |
| Item 3 Validity (7 items) | .96 | 2.17 (0.62) | 2.07 (.36) | 4.94 |
| Item 4 Validity (3 items) | .86 | 2.24 (0.45) | 3.53 (.17) | 7.53 |

Note. The K^2 test for omnibus univariate normality is distributed as a chi-square distribution with two degrees of freedom. The one-sample *t*-tests compared the observed mean with the scale midpoint (1.5) and each test was statistically significant at $p < .001$ (with 20 degrees of freedom).

As shown above, the items used to create the four composite variables showed an acceptable level of internal consistency (assessed through Cronbach's alpha), indicating that the measures of validity perceptions were reliable. In addition, a series of D'Agostino and Pearson K^2 tests for omnibus univariate normality showed that the composite variables were normally distributed and suitable for parametric inferential procedures (see below).

Examination of the observed means (≥ 2.17) indicated that the sample perceived the Survey of Employer Satisfaction with A-State Graduates questions to be valid indicators of the corresponding TESS and InTASC Standards. Assuming that content validity judgements are normally distributed in the population, a series of one-sample *t*-tests were conducted to test whether the observed means were significantly higher than the response scale midpoint (1.5; which would represent "average" validity perceptions). As shown above, each of these tests were statistically significant at $p < .001$, indicating that the sample's content validity perceptions were significantly higher than "average".

Collectively, these results suggest that the sample of superintendents and principals considered the four items from the Survey of Employer Satisfaction with A-State Graduates to be highly valid measures of TESS and InTASC Standards.