Unit Plan 8: Professional Development and Lifelong Learning

# Introduction

This document provides teachers with a unit planning template.

# Course and Unit Information

This section provides information about the course, grade level, and timeframe of instruction.

* Course Name: Practicum in Education and Training
* Grade Level(s)**:** 11-12
* TimeFrame (# of Minutes/Periods)**:** 450 Minutes/ Five 90-Minute Periods

# Unit Overview

Students will discuss with a local school district administrator or HR representative a sample Professional Development Plan (PDP) based on a teacher’s first year in the school district. Administrators/HR representatives will be asked to discuss upcoming staffing needs, as well as the competencies required for potential candidates. In addition, administrators can be asked to share and discuss their own PDP plans, past, present, and future, and pathways for professional growth for future educators in the school district.

Students will invite additional administrators, teachers, and/or HR representatives to visit the class in person, via Skype, or via a recorded interview to express their thoughts on lifelong learning, professional development (PD), and/or their own PDPs, past, present, and future. Copies of PDP templates and/or completed plans can also be solicited, as appropriate. Students will explore local school districts resources and PD offerings as well as the Texas CTE Resource Center (TCRC) site, and present sample resources.

Students will reflect on the need for lifelong learning by writing a paragraph that could augment or be added to their philosophy of education statement.

Students will meet with guidance counselors and/or current teachers to discuss and evaluate core and non-core subject area competencies and demonstrate critical-thinking and problem-solving skills as they reflect on course work and work samples and plan for gaining further competencies as needed.

# Unit PLan

The two-column table in this section contains unit planning elements in the first column, and details about the element in the second column.

## Unit Plan Table

| **Section** | **Information** |
| --- | --- |
| **TEKS (CTE)** | **130.165. (c) Knowledge and skills**  (5) The student plans and uses effective instruction. The student is expected to:  (C) demonstrate competency in core and non-core subject areas.  (11) The student explores the need and opportunities for continued professional development for educators and trainers. The student is expected to:  (A) identify strategies and resources for the professional development of educators or trainers such as research and assessment;  (B) demonstrate teacher or trainer characteristics that promote ongoing professional development and lifelong learning; and  (C) plan for professional growth. |
| **Unit Question** | * What are the needs and opportunities for continued professional development for teachers and trainers? |
| **Essential Content Questions** | * What are strategies and resources you can use to engage in professional development and lifelong learning? * What does lifelong learning mean to you? * How will you plan for professional growth? * What teacher characteristics promote ongoing professional development and lifelong learning? * If you do not currently have sufficient competencies in core and non-core subject areas, what strategies and resources to gain those competencies are available to you? |
| **Unit Learning Objectives**  **(What student will know and be able to do)** | **Students will be able to:**   * Identify and evaluate personal competencies in core and non-core subject areas * Identify available strategies and resources to gain competencies in core and non-core subject areas * Identify local school district opportunities for professional development * Develop a plan for professional growth * Reflect on the need for lifelong learning by writing a paragraph that could augment or be added to their philosophy of education statement * Meet with guidance counselors and/or current teachers to discuss and evaluate core and non-core subject area competencies |
| **Assessments**  **(Performance Tasks)** | **Students will be able to:**   * Contribute to group discussions and demonstrations of teacher and trainer characteristics that promote ongoing professional development and lifelong learning * Present sample PD resources. * Write a reflection paragraph that could augment or be added to their philosophy of education statement * Write a brief summary report of core and non-core subject area competencies meeting |
| **Evaluative Criteria**  **(Rubric)** | * Participation Self-Evaluation Rubric * Reflective Paragraph Writing Rubric * Meeting Summary Report Rubric * PD Presentation Rubric |
| **Vocabulary** | * Characteristics * Constructive Feedback * Encourage * Lifelong Learning * Metacognition * Professional Development * Professional Growth |
| **Resources** | * **Texas CTE Resource Center (TCRC)**   <https://txcte.org/resource-index>  **Professional Development**  <https://txcte.org/resource/professional-development>  **CTE TEKS Online Professional Development Modules**  <https://txcte.org/binder/cte-teks-implementation-online-professional-development-modules>  **Ask Yourself – A Self-Assessment**  <https://txcte.org/resource/ask-yourself-self-assessment>   * **Edutopia**   **A Recipe for inspiring Lifelong Learning**  <https://www.edutopia.org/article/recipe-inspiring-lifelong-learning>  **Easy, Informal Professional Development**  <https://www.edutopia.org/article/easy-informal-professional-development>  **What are Your Teaching Fundamentals?**  <https://www.edutopia.org/article/what-are-your-teaching-fundamentals> |
| **Notes** |  |