GOOD MORAL CHARACTER STATEMENT
2014-2015

In order to be issued an educator license (e.g., teaching, administrative, or pupil services) by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), an applicant must be deemed of “good moral character.” The College of Education and Human Development at Bowling Green State University (BGSU), as the Educator Preparation Unit, is responsible for recommending individuals for licensure. Given this responsibility, all students enrolled at BGSU in programs leading to educator licensure eligibility are required to sign this document declaring their “good moral character” status and verifying their awareness of the standard.

Good moral character is defined in Administrative Rule 3301-24-01(L) as follows:

“Good moral character” means a person that has not pleaded guilty to or has been convicted of any felony, any violation of section 2907.04 (corruption of a minor) or section 2907.06 (sexual imposition), or division (A) or (C) of section 2907.07 (importuning) of the Revised Code, any offense of violence, theft offense, or drug abuse offense that is not a minor misdemeanor, or any substantively comparable ordinance of a municipal corporation of another state. An individual who has pleaded guilty to or has been convicted of any such offense may have an application for licensure considered by the state board of education provided said individual meets the conditions specified in Chapter 3301-73 of the Administrative Code.

Educator licensure application questions (circle response):

1. Have you been convicted of, found guilty of, pled guilty to, or pled no contest to any misdemeanor other than a traffic offense? Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Have you been convicted of, found guilty of, pled guilty to, or pled no contest to any felony? Yes ☐ No ☐

3. Have you ever had a criminal conviction sealed or expunged? Yes ☐ No ☐

4. Have you had any certificate, license, or permit, or the application for same, revoked, suspended, limited, or denied? Yes ☐ No ☐

5. Have you ever surrendered any certificate, license, or permit? Yes ☐ No ☐

If you have accurately and truthfully answered “NO” to all of the questions listed on this form, please sign the following statement:

I, __________________________ (print name), assure and certify to the Educator Preparation Unit that I have accurately and honestly answered “NO” to all of the questions listed on this form.

________________________  ______________________
Signature              Date
Periodically during your educator preparation program you will be required to be fingerprinted so a Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCII) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) check may be completed to verify your “good moral character” status. There will be a fee associated with each fingerprinting session and that fee will be solely your responsibility. The fingerprinting process and the BCII/FBI checks will be expected of you because you will be entering schools and working with PreK-12 students as a part of your educator preparation program. The BCII/FBI checks are professional requirements and help to insure the health and safety of the PreK-12 students with whom you will be working.

I, ____________________________, have read and understand this information.

Signature ____________________________________  Date ____________________

For BGSU to recommend an undergraduate/graduate student or degree holder seeking licensure only (non-degree) for a State of Ohio license (teaching, administrative, or pupil services), all program and licensure criteria must have been met. Licensure applicants must meet the criteria in place at the point of licensure application.

1. For continuously enrolled students (i.e., from admission to program completion), licensure program requirements are specific to the year in which the licensure program was begun and are specified in the undergraduate or graduate catalog and/or on the program checksheet. Students who do not maintain continuous enrollment, however, may be subject to additional program/licensure requirements.
   • College of Education and Human Development (EDHD) students who stop out of continuous enrollment for more than two consecutive semesters (summers are not counted) will be moved to the current checksheet at the time of readmission and will be held to all State/University/College policies in effect at the time of readmission.

2. Ohio Department of Education (ODE) licensure criteria including licensure exam (e.g., Praxis II) requirements and qualifying scores are subject to change. Applicants must meet the requirements at the time of licensure application. Ohio mandated exam requirements are posted on the ODE and Educational Testing Service (ETS) web sites.

3. Students who delay their application for State of Ohio licensure (defined by the date when application is verified and ready for submission to the ODE) for longer than one academic year from their program completion/graduation must meet current, State-approved, program/licensure requirements at the time of application. Changes in these requirements during the interim between program completion/graduation and application may result in the applicant having to meet additional requirements before BGSU may recommend licensure.

Please Note: Due to the changes in State of Ohio licensure beginning July 1, 2010, BGSU/EDHD has temporarily provided an extended grace period for individuals graduating/completing their licensure programs prior to August 31, 2013. These individuals have five years from their graduation/program completion to apply for licensure using program requirements in effect at graduation/program completion. These applicants must, however, meet any State of Ohio mandates/requirements in effect at the time of application, even if these requirements are in addition to or alter their graduation/program completion requirements. Applicants applying for licensure with more than five years since graduation/program completions will have to meet current, State-approved, program requirements at time of application. This policy extension is subject to change and will be reevaluated for graduates/completers after 8/31/13.

I, ____________________________, have read and understand this information.

Signature ____________________________________  Date ____________________