

MAJOR FINDINGS

- A teacher who is a graduate of an SMSU education program staffs almost one in every eight classroom in the State of Missouri. That is, of the 65,090 practicing classroom teachers in Missouri during the 2002-2003 academic school year, 8,472 (13%) were graduates of SMSU teacher education programs, making SMSU the leading teacher preparation institution among all 36 colleges and universities in Missouri.
- Four out of five SMSU graduates teaching in a P-12 classroom are female.
- Approximately 40% of SMSU graduates who are practicing teachers are teaching in elementary classrooms, 20% in middle level schools, 26% in high schools, 7% in P-12, and 7% in some combination that is not a comprehensive setting.
- Approximately one of every two practicing classroom teachers who completed an undergraduate education program at SMSU return to enroll in a graduate level teacher education program.
- Approximately 50% of all P-12 classroom teachers who completed an SMSU teacher preparation program hold multiple certifications.
- SMSU graduates who are currently teaching in P-12 classrooms rate the quality of their teacher preparation program as “Competent” (or higher). On average, teachers who hold both undergraduate and graduate degrees from SMSU rate their programs higher than teacher who have completed the undergraduate program only.
- When identified individually for them, most SMSU teacher education graduates currently teaching in Missouri classrooms believe they understand each component and apply the basic principle at some level in their teaching.
- Practicing teachers who graduated from SMSU after 2000 rate their understanding of the Conceptual Framework and the Missouri Standard for Education Professionals (MoSTEP) much higher than those who graduated before May 2000.
- The highest rated Conceptual Framework component is “Knowledge of subject matter” $M = 4.2$, followed by “Dispositions” $M = 4.06$, “Learning and Development” $M = 3.77$ and “Professional Skills” $M = 3.77$. The two lowest rating are “Technology” $M = 3.33$ and “Collaboration and Leadership” $M = 3.0$.
- The highest rated MoSTEP components are “Reflection as a professional” $M = 4.0$, “Learning Opportunities” $M = 3.96$, “Communication Techniques” $M = 3.95$, and “Fostering Relationships” $M = 3.94$. The lowest rating was “Using Technology” $M = 3.4$.