

How Prepared are Teacher Candidates for Technology in the Classroom?

SUNY Buffalo State education students are motivated and enthusiastic about completing the transformation from teacher candidate to professional educator. One requirement for this change involves a strong grasp of current and emerging technology that is being used in the classroom. SUNY Buffalo State accomplishes this with classes such as the Integration of Technology in Education, their PDS methods courses, and through professional development opportunities.

At SUNY Buffalo State, the process of becoming a professional educator is lengthy. As teacher candidates progress through the program, they are increasingly exposed to methods of classroom technology implementation until the culminating experience of student teaching. Each class has a direct impact on their development as new teachers.

This poster reports the results of the survey on information towards teacher candidate attitudes, experiences, and preparation levels regarding the use of technology. A group of teacher candidates in an introduction to education course were surveyed to identify current technology knowledge, and how candidates view the role of technology in their future classrooms. The results from many of the surveys showed that the teacher candidates had a good understanding of the use of search engines such as Google and websites like Pinterest in order to formulate ideas for crafting lesson plans. However, many teacher candidates included that they would like to learn more.

Teacher candidates are progressing towards becoming the leaders and role models of the future, one that is becoming more engrossed in the use of technology every day. Thankfully, there are measures being taken in order to provide the teacher candidates with the knowledge and skills that they will need in order to provide their future students with an enriching experience.