ALUMNI SURVEY

1. **What was the most recent degree that you earned at Southern Miss?**
   a. Bachelor’s
   b. Master’s
   c. Educational Specialist (Ed.S.)
   d. Ed.D.
   e. Ph.D.

2. **Name of field**
   a. Art Education
   b. Biology Education
   c. Business Technology Education
   d. Chemistry Education
   e. Educational Leadership/Administration
   f. Elementary Education
   g. Elementary/Special Education Dual
   h. Dance Education
   i. Deaf Education
   j. English Education
   k. Foreign Language Education
   l. History Education
   m. Human Performance & Recreation
   n. Library Media
   o. Mathematics Education
   p. Music Education
   q. Physical Education
   r. Physical Education/Sport Coaching Dual
   s. Physics Education
   t. School Counseling
   u. School Psychology
   v. Special Education

3. **We are interested in whether you have worked as a teacher or other education professional (such as counselor, administrator or educational researcher) at any time after obtaining your degree in education. Which of the following best describes you:**
   a. I am currently working as a classroom teacher ................................ Go to question 4
   b. I am currently working as an education professional other than a classroom teacher ................................................................. Go to question 18
   c. I worked as a teacher or other education professional at one time, but left the field of education .......................................................... Go to question 23
   d. I never worked as a teacher or other education professional .......... Go to question 29
4. How do you classify your main assignment, that is, the activity at which you spent most of your time during the past school year?
   a. Regular full-time teacher, specialist, or staff developer
   b. Regular part-time teacher, specialist, or staff developer
   c. Long-term substitute (you fill the role of a regular teacher on a long-term basis, but you are still considered a substitute)
   d. Short-term substitute
   e. Other

5. In which type of school did you primarily teach during the past school year?
   a. Preschool
   b. Public school
   c. Public charter school
   d. Public charter school
   e. Private school that is religiously affiliated
   f. For profit school

6. At what level did you primarily teach during the past school year?
   a. Pre-school
   b. Elementary school
   c. Middle school
   d. Secondary school

7. What is the main subject area you taught during the past school year?
   a. General education (responsible for teaching all or most academic subjects to one class)
   b. Math
   c. Science
   d. History, Geography, Social Studies, or Civics
   e. Reading
   f. English or Language Arts
   g. Foreign Languages
   h. Health or Physical Education
   i. Art
   j. Music
   k. Vocational Education
   l. Dual Language
   m. English as a second language (ESL)
   n. Special Education (own class)
   o. Special Education (other than own class)
   p. Dance
   q. Instructional Technology/Business Technology Education
   r. Other (please specify)

8. How did you earn your state certificate in your main teaching field?
   a. As part of a bachelor’s degree program
   b. As part of a 5th year program
   c. As part of a master’s degree program
   d. As part of a post-baccalaureate program
e. After I began teaching, as part of an alternative program such as Teach for America
f. Through continuing professional development
g. I do not hold a certificate
h. Other (please specify)

9. Would you have preferred more or less student teaching/internship, or would you say the duration of your student teaching/internship was about right?
   a. More
   b. Less
   c. About right

10. How do you rate the quality of supervision you received from your professors during student teaching/internship?
   a. Excellent
   b. Good
   c. Fair
   d. Poor

11. Rationale for rating in question 10/Comments

12. Is teaching a second or third career for you?
   a. Yes
   b. No

13. If you could start over again, would you become a teacher?
   a. Definitely would become a teacher
   b. Probably would become a teacher
   c. Probably would not become a teacher
   d. Definitely would not become a teacher

14. Using the following scale, indicate how well your teacher preparation program prepare you to:
   Very well
   Moderately well
   Somewhat Well
   Not at all well
   a. Integrate technology into the grade level or subject taught. (Technology)
   b. Maintain order and discipline in the classroom. (Classroom Management)
   c. Use student performance-based assessment techniques. (Assessment of Learning)
   d. Address the needs of students with disabilities. (Diversity)
   e. Address the needs of gifted and advanced learners. (Diversity)
   f. Address the needs of students with limited English proficiency. (Diversity)
   g. Address the needs of students from diverse cultural backgrounds. (Diversity)
   h. Possess a content and theoretical knowledge base supported by technological and pedagogical skills that empowers you with the ability to support learning. (Content Knowledge & Technology)
i. Develop knowledge, understanding, and awareness of other cultures and develop the same for the learning community in and beyond the classroom. (Diversity)

j. Understand content knowledge contained in the local, state, and national standards. (Content knowledge)

k. Develop knowledge, understanding, and awareness of student learning processes and apply that knowledge to support learning. (Pedagogy)

l. Demonstrate a belief that all persons can learn. (Diversity)

m. Know and utilize the best practices and base knowledge and skills on sound educational theory, practice, and research. (Pedagogy)

n. Reveal personal and professional resolve by continuously progressing and learning from difficult situations, supporting and assisting others through adversarial times, and assuring others that they are respected and valued. (Dispositions)

o. Pursue learning opportunities while continuing to grow and develop. (Disposition)

p. Actively engage learners in cognitive and participatory learning. (Instructional Planning)

q. Demonstrate professional values and high moral principles by conforming to accepted professional standards of conduct. (Dispositions)

r. Use data-driven evidence to improve the learning process and support improved learning outcomes. (Assessment of Learning)

s. Communicate with parents, administrators, and other stakeholders in the community and act in a manner that supports improved learning outcomes in the classroom. (Communication & Professional Collaboration)

t. Communicate effectively to inspire students to be successful. (Communication)

u. Create a learning environment that promotes learning and positive dispositions. (Classroom Management)

15. In your opinion, what are the main reasons so many teachers leave the field within five years? Please choose 3 of the following:
   a. Low prestige of the teaching profession
   b. Inadequate academic preparation
   c. Inadequate preparation for the realities of the classroom
   d. Inadequate mentoring or induction after beginning teaching
   e. Low pay
   f. Culture of the school in which the teacher works
   g. Demands of the job that lead to burnout
   h. Lack of administrator support

16. In your opinion, what is the best model for teacher preparation?
   a. Four year undergraduate degree in education
   b. Four year undergraduate degree with an academic major and a minor in education
   c. Four year undergraduate degree with an academic major followed by a one-year master’s degree in education
   d. A five-year program combining teacher preparation with another major
   e. Post-baccalaureate certification
   f. Alternative certification
17. Which of the following proposals for improving teacher preparation programs do you consider to be the most important? Please choose 3 of the following:
   a. Require a major in an academic subject other than education at the undergraduate level
   b. Increase mastery of pedagogical practice
   c. Raise requirements for academic performance
   d. Recruit higher quality faculty
   e. Strike a better balance between subject matter preparation and field experience
   f. Require student teaching of longer duration
   g. Provide closer supervision of student teaching
   h. Divide faculty into research faculty and clinical faculty (as in medical school) rather than have faculty do both research and teaching
   i. Raise admission standards for teacher preparation programs
   j. Provide mentoring programs after graduation

Please go to question 33
18. What is your current position?
   a. Superintendent
   b. District level administrator
   c. Principal or School Head
   d. Assistant principal or program director
   e. Curriculum specialist or coordinator
   f. School psychologist
   g. School guidance counselor
   h. Library media specialist or librarian
   i. Consultant
   j. Computer specialist
   k. Other (please specify)

19. How long have you been in your current position?
   a. Less than a year
   b. 1 – 3 years
   c. 4 – 7 years
   d. More than 7 years

20. Why did you decide to be an education professional other than a teacher? (Select top 3 choices)
   a. Impact on children/students’ lives
   b. Make a difference
   c. Challenging and rewarding job
   d. Think I could do a great job
   e. Provide teachers instructional supervision
   f. Career advancement
   g. Pay raise
   h. Encouraged by others
   i. It’s a calling
   j. Could do better job than current/former administrator
   k. Address shortage of administrators

21. Before beginning your current position, did you ever teach grades K-12? If yes, for how many years?
   a. No
   b. Yes
      1) 1 – 5 years
      2) 6 – 10 years
      3) 11 – 15 years
      4) 16 – 20 years
      5) More than 20 years

22. What type of additional training would you recommend to help prepare you for your current position? (Select top three choices)
   a. Academic and curriculum programs
   b. Crisis management/emergency preparedness
   c. Discipline/classroom behavior
d. Finance
e. Grant writing
f. Marketing
g. Mentoring
h. Organizational change
i. Recruitment/retention of school personnel
j. Research and assessments
k. Special education
l. Special programs (i.e., Bilingual, Gifted, etc.)
m. Strategic planning

Please go to question 33
23. When did you decide to leave the education field?
   a. After my first day on the job
   b. After the first semester
   c. After the first year
   d. After two years
   e. After three years
   f. By the end of my fifth year
   g. Between the end of my fifth year and my tenth year
   h. After my tenth year

24. Did any of these reasons play a part in your decision to leave the education field? (check Yes or No)
   a. I had unrealistic expectations about what an education career would be like
   b. There was lack of opportunity for advancement
   c. I wanted a better salary
   d. Demands of the job led to burnout
   e. My employer did not provide the mentoring or additional training I needed
   f. My career interests changed
   g. Family obligations
   h. Lack of status
   i. Other (please specify)

25. In addition to any reasons you listed above, did you leave the education field because you felt your academic program did not adequately prepare you for your job?
   a. Yes → Go to question 26
   b. No → Go to question 27

26. What could your academic program have done differently to better prepare you for your job? (Select top three choices)
   a. Require a major in an academic subject other than education at the undergraduate level
   b. Increase mastery of pedagogical practice
   c. Raise requirements for academic performance
   d. Recruit higher quality faculty
   e. Strike a better balance between subject matter preparation and field experience
   f. Require student teaching of longer duration
   g. Provide closer supervision of student teaching
   h. Mentor all new teachers
   i. Provide better preparation in using instructional technology
   j. Provide better preparation in maintaining order and discipline in the classroom
   k. Provide better preparation in working with parents
   l. Provide a stronger mastery of your subject area
   m. Allow more time for administrative internships
   n. Provide administrative internships of higher quality
   o. Offer a more relevant curriculum
   p. Provide better preparation for certification in your primary teaching area
q. Provide better preparation to handle the paperwork associated with your job
r. Provide better preparation to handle the political aspects of your job

27. What is your primary responsibility currently?
   a. Caring for family members
   b. Military service
   c. Self-employed
   d. Attending graduate school working on an advanced degree in education
   e. Attending graduate or professional school working on an advanced degree in a field other than education
   f. Unemployed
   g. Employed

28. What was the last position you held in the education field?
   a. Regular full-time teacher, specialist, or staff developer
   b. Regular part-time teacher, specialist, or staff developer
   c. Long-term substitute (you filled the role of a regular teacher on a long-term basis, but you were still considered a substitute)
   d. Short-term substitute
   e. Curriculum specialist
   f. Counselor
   g. School Psychologist
   h. Principal or Assistant Principal
   i. Administrator other than Principal or Assistant Principal
   j. Educational researcher
   k. Other

Please go to question 33
For alumni who never worked as an educator

29. When did you decide that you would not enter the education field?
   a. Before student teaching/practicum/internship
   b. While student teaching/practicum/internship
   c. After graduation

30. What was your main reason for earning a degree or certificate in education from The University of Southern Mississippi? Please check one.
   a. I planned to make education my career
   b. I was undecided about a career, and education seemed like an attractive career
   c. Employment in education was readily available
   d. It was an easy major
   e. My family wanted me to study education
   f. Backup plan
   g. Other

31. After earning your degree, what was the main reason you chose not to work as an educator?
   a. My career interest changed
   b. I never intended to work in the education field
   c. I could not find work I wanted in the education field
   d. I could not find work in the location I wanted
   e. Family responsibilities kept me out of the workforce
   f. I didn't feel my education adequately prepared me
   g. The salaries were too low
   h. The low status of the education profession
   i. I'm currently in graduate school working on an advanced degree in education
   j. I'm currently in graduate or professional school working on an advanced degree in a field other than education
   k. Gender bias
   l. Ethnicity bias
   m. Other

32. Would any of these factors have persuaded you to enter the education field? (Please check Yes or No)
   a. Greater opportunity for advancement
   b. Better job opportunities in my field
   c. Better job opportunities in my preferred location
   d. A better salary
   e. Higher status
   f. Loan forgiveness
   g. Better preparation by my education program
   h. Other
### QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

This section contains questions about your experience at The University of Southern Mississippi. Please answer the following questions thinking only about Southern Miss.

33. **Using the following scale, how would you rate your professional education classes?**
   - Excellent
   - Good
   - Needs Improvement
   - Needs Substantial Improvement
   - Don’t know

   a. Overall quality  
   b. Academic reputation  
   c. Cooperation between Education and other departments or colleges  
   d. Job readiness of graduates  
   e. The curriculum  
   f. Faculty involvement in local or regional public schools  
   g. Recruitment of minority students  
   h. Admission requirements  
   i. Facilities  
   j. Intellectual ability of graduates  
   k. Sense of community  
   l. Quality of fellow students  
   m. Books used in courses  
   n. Quality of teaching  
   o. Quality of advising  
   p. Administrative internship  
   q. Student teaching  
   r. Faculty who are familiar with the day-to-day realities of classroom or school life

34. **What did you find most valuable about your education program?**

35. **What did you find least valuable about your education program?**

36. **What, if anything, was missing from your education program?**

37. **Were you a full-time or part-time student?**
   - a. Full-time student  
   - b. Part-time student

38. **Were you working while attending school?** Please choose the one option that best describes your work situation.
a. Not working  
b. Working at a full-time job in the education field  
c. Working at a full-time job outside the education field  
d. Working at a part-time job in the education field  
e. Working at a part-time job outside the education field  
f. Working as a paid graduate assistant  

39. Using the following scale, how would you rate your education program on the following factors?

   Excellent  
   Good  
   Needs Improvement  
   Needs Substantial Improvement  
   Don’t know  

   a. Preparing you to handle the growing testing and accountability movement  
   b. Preparing you to deal with issues and constituencies beyond the classroom such as parents and school bureaucracy  
   c. Providing you with up to date knowledge of teaching and learning  
   d. Preparing you to work with a multi-ethnic, multi-racial student population  
   e. Preparing you to apply what you learned to a variety of tasks and jobs  
   f. Preparing you to deal with students from various socio-economic backgrounds  
   g. Preparing you to deal with in-school politics  
   h. Preparing you to deal with a variety of different school environments  
   i. Job placement services  
   j. Career counseling  

40. Thinking back to your experience as a student at The University of Southern Mississippi, what are the most important resources that your school of education needs to do a better job of preparing educators? (Select top three choices)  

   a. Commitment to high quality educator preparation from the highest level of the university administration  
   b. Admissions standards that are more selective  
   c. Upgraded technology  
   d. Faculty with more research expertise  
   e. Faculty with more experience as practitioners  
   f. Ability to offer more financial aid to students  
   g. More relevant curriculum  
   h. Faculty more committed to preparing students  
   i. A curriculum that requires more clinical experience  
   j. A curriculum that requires stronger research preparation  
   k. Smaller classes  

41. Why did you choose to attend The University of Southern Mississippi? (Select top three choices)  

   a. Convenient location  
   b. Reasonable tuition  
   c. Financial aid
d. Scholarships
e. Good reputation
f. Quality of program
g. Courses offered at convenient times
h. Shortness of program
i. Other

42. Overall, how satisfied are you with the education you received at The University of Southern Mississippi?
   a. Very satisfied
   b. Somewhat satisfied
   c. Somewhat dissatisfied
   d. Very dissatisfied
   e. No opinion

43. How useful in your day-to-day work is the education that you received at The University of Southern Mississippi?
   a. Very useful
   b. Somewhat useful
   c. Not at all useful
   d. Not applicable
   e. No opinion

44. We would like to know about the quality and value of your education courses. Using the following scale, indicate the amount of coursework in these areas:
   Right amount of coursework
   Needed more coursework
   Needed less coursework
   a. Child and adolescent development
   b. Teaching and learning
   c. Historical and philosophical foundations of education
   d. Research methods
   e. Educational psychology
   f. Ethics
   g. Curriculum development
   h. Politics of education
   i. Instructional leadership
   j. Managing change
   k. School law
   l. Needs of exceptional children
   m. Community relations/parents
   n. Schools as organizations
   o. Supporting teachers for instructional improvement
   p. School principalship
   q. Conflict resolution/school violence
   r. Economics of education
QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

This next section asks about your background and anything else you would like to add.

45. What is your year of birth?

46. Are you female or male?
   a. Female
   b. Male

47. Please identify your race/ethnicity.
   a. American Indian or Alaskan Native
   b. Asian or Pacific Islander
   c. African American
   d. White/Caucasian
   e. Hispanic
   f. Multiple

48. Which group describes your total household income from all sources?
   a. Under $15,000
   b. $15,000 to less than $20,000
   c. $20,000 to less than $25,000
   d. $25,000 to less than $30,000
   e. $30,000 to less than $40,000
   f. $40,000 to less than $50,000
   g. $50,000 to less than $75,000
   h. $75,000 to less than $100,000
   i. $100,000 or more

49. Is there anything else you would like to tell us? Please add any thoughts you feel would be helpful in assessing the status of our education programs.