

**Program Completers Focus Group**  
**February 22, 2020**  
**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM**  
**Zoom**

Present: (ECH SPED), (ECH SPED), (ECH SPED), (ECH)

Others to participate later: (ECH), (Secondary Science), (ML Math), (Secondary Social Studies)

Everyone present completed the Alumni Survey that was sent out via Baseline.

Everyone present agreed to send evaluation data. A follow-up email was sent to the participants that described the data collection process.

The meeting was used for Clarion University School of Education completers to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the education programs at Clarion University.

In addition to the comments that the participants shared via the Alumni Survey, they specifically addressed the following:

Strengths of the Clarion University SOE programs:

- SPED is wonderful. Completers felt that points of strength came in the topics of behavior management and differentiation.
- The 1-4 Block allowed for completers to begin understanding what teaching was really going to involve.
- SPED block and 1-4 block were highlights of the program.

Areas for growth for the Clarion University SOE programs:

- PreK-K block should be re-assessed. Too many things were not dedicated to the realities of kindergarten. Kindergarten is the new first grade and since students need to know more in kindergarten, more specific strategies (reading and math) should be implemented.
- The 'nitty-gritty' of expectations need to encompass more than theory.
- Some of the 1-4 Block curriculum should be implemented in the PreK-K block (math and reading).
- Although praises were sung for SPED, the SPED curriculum was a mile wide and an inch deep for the straight ECH major.

Areas for Consideration:

- More depth of the curriculum. Participants understood the condensed timeframe of curricular dissemination. It would be beneficial for teacher candidates to be able to implement their course learnings in a more immediate field experience setting.
- Co-teaching is non-existent in the curriculum. Several participants identified that they remembered a 'slide or two' dedicated to the topic, but nothing that was memorable.
- More time spent on preparing teacher candidates to enter the next phase after graduation. Specifics that were mentioned, Level II certification and the intricacies of the job hunt.