

Gavin Wheeler: Endorsement Checklist

During my time at Evergreen, my studies mainly focused on acquiring skills to be a better musician, performer, and composer. It wasn't until shortly after graduation that I decided to dip my toes in the waters of public education, but over the course of the past three years, I have recognized that this is where my passion lies.

Upon filling out the endorsement checklist for ELA, I was happy to find that through the interdisciplinary style of the education I was provided from TESC, I met many of the endorsement requirements. I find myself constantly reaching back on my time spent in Dangerous Readings, where a main focus of the program was learning how to effectively analyze literature and synthesize information/ interpretations of text. My SOS studies provided me the opportunities to think critically to design my own studies based on achievable and personally important educational goals. In experimental music/ theatre courses, I was able to collaborate with a diverse group of personalities and skill levels to create final products that were impactful and important for core competencies of my field.

Where I may be lacking in formal education on the checklist (notably specific literature studies and grammar studies), I can without hesitation draw from materials and resources from multiple Evergreen programs that may have not specifically focused on those credit requirements. I was exposed to a wide range of literature from multiple genres and disciplines, i.e. theater, mythology, historical texts, fiction.

I am an avid reader and learner, and I must be in order to work effectively in the educational field.

I strive to collaborate with the classroom teachers, administration, and school counselors in which I work with to maintain current understanding of teaching and learning practices, as well as taking opportunities to be involved in professional development that can further my understanding of and implementation of a variety of methods to present information of any given content area and support student needs, whatever they might be.

My experience not only as a paraeducator, but as an emergency certified substitute teacher has been valuable in preparing me for not just the routines and strategies of managing an educational environment, but also tackling the everyday challenges of handling whatever that day might throw. It is a fantastic opportunity to observe and implement many different teaching and classroom management strategies, and experiment with which ones work best for me.

Lastly, on a personal major win, I was incredibly proud of my ELA NES test result. I achieved a 270 without the ability to purchase study materials, and I truly believe that my educational history and continued passion for learning and growth has prepared me for this next step in my career.