Important Teacher Attributes

Becoming a teacher requires knowledge, skills, and the qualities of a caring and professional person. Knowledge and skills can be learned during the teacher education program but the personal attributes required of good teachers—enthusiasm, fairness, compassion, honesty, courage, humility—must already be part of your character when you enter a Faculty of Education.

If you are thinking about becoming a teacher, ask yourself if you possess these attributes. *If you do, Western wants you!*

**Commitment**
- passionate about becoming a teacher and ‘making a difference’ in students’ lives
- dedicated to the well-being and success of all students
- seeking to excel

**Perseverance**
- willing to work hard to overcome challenges

**Social & Interpersonal Skills**
- able to “read” and understand different social situations
- able to communicate effectively in social interactions
- able to develop rapport and appropriate relationships with others

**Fairness & Inclusivity**
- respects diversity among students and differences in how students learn
- believes in the ability of all students to learn
- culturally sensitive, gender fair, compassionate, patient

**Life-Long Learning & Professional Growth**
- intellectually curious and open to new ideas
- willing to engage in self-evaluation and critical reflection
- open and responsive to constructive criticism
- willing to seek assistance and support from appropriate sources, as needed

**Work Habits & Appropriate Skills**
- shows initiative and flexibility
- works collaboratively or independently as needed
- organizes work and manages time effectively
- speaks and writes fluently the language of instruction
- participates in the whole life of the Faculty or school