

# **Internship Professional Agreement with School Systems**

The internship experience represents a collaborative agreement between Auburn University's College of Education and participating school systems. Terms of this professional agreement are governed by NCATE accreditation standards and rules of Teacher Education approved by the Alabama State Board of Education. These terms are delineated below. The College works with its professional partners to identify any additional site-specific terms.

## **1. Criteria**

Entry and exit criteria for internship will be clearly identified.

## **2. Collaboration**

- (a) The College, its school partners, and other members of the professional community including faculty in academic disciplines will design, implement, and evaluate the internship experience.
- (b) The College with its professional community will develop an assessment system that reflects the conceptual framework and candidate proficiencies aligned with state and professional standards.
- (c) The College and its school partners will jointly determine the specific placement of interns to provide appropriate learning experiences.

## **3. The Internship Experience**

Candidates will have opportunities to . . .

- (a) develop and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and dispositions delineated in institutional, state, and professional standards and necessary for helping all students learn;
- (b) implement evidence-based practices that reflect what the College values about learning and teaching;
- (c) reflect on professional practices including feedback from the cooperating teacher, university supervisor, and peers;
- (d) use information technology to support learning and teaching;
- (e) work with diverse learners including students with exceptionalities and students from diverse ethnic, racial, gender, and socioeconomic groups;
- (f) be full-time in the schools for a full semester;
- (g) gradually progress toward assuming full responsibilities of the teacher for at least 20 full days including at least 10 consecutive days; and
- (h) meet on campus for special activities no more than five days during the semester.

## **4. Supervision**

- (a) University supervisors will have had recent professional experiences in P-12 settings at the levels they supervise.
- (b) Cooperating teachers will be accomplished school practitioners who are properly certificated for their present assignment; have at least three years of educational experience in their field of specialization; currently teach classes in the intern's area(s) of specialization; and hold at least a master's degree (waived in unusual circumstances).

- (c) Interns will be provided with regular and continuing support through processes such as observation, conferencing, group discussion, email, and the use of other technology.

**5. Assessment of Candidate Performance**

During internship, the assessment of candidate performance will . . .

- (a) include multiple assessment strategies including strategies that assess the effect of candidate performance on student learning;
- (b) include data based on criteria in Alabama's Professional Education Personnel Evaluation (PEPE) Program;
- (c) be aligned with professional, state, and institutional standards and with the College's conceptual framework; and
- (d) include joint evaluations by candidates, school faculty, and university faculty.

**6. Liability and Legal Status**

- (a) Interns are charged a fee for professional liability insurance through Auburn University.
- (b) Interns do not have legal status as a teacher. If the cooperating teacher is absent, a substitute teacher must be assigned to the intern's classroom. If the cooperating teacher is absent during an intern's full-time teaching, other appropriate school personnel may be assigned legal responsibility for the intern's students. Also, an intern cannot be the designated person responsible for playground duty or to transport students.
- (c) Interns are not to use corporal punishment, and they are not to be used as a "witness" for such action.

**7. Assurance of Competence**

The College of Education guarantees the success of graduates who receive initial professional certification through the College and who are employed within their area(s) of specialization. The College will provide remediation at no cost to an individual who was recommended for certification by the College of Education and whose job performance within two years after program completion is deemed unsatisfactory by a local education agency based on performance evaluations established by the Alabama State Board of Education.

- (a) This assurance of competence requires responsible evaluations of candidates by university faculty, supervisors, and cooperating teachers throughout teacher preparation programs.
- (b) A grade of satisfactory for internship indicates that the university supervisor with input from the cooperating teacher has determined that the intern has met or exceeded all proficiency expectations for teaching professionals at the initial level of certification and is prepared for a successful first year teaching experience.
- (c) If an intern's performance at midpoint of the placement/semester indicates that he/she is not on track to satisfactorily complete internship, the university supervisor contacts the appropriate program coordinator, department head, and the Coordinator of Partnerships, Professional Experiences, and Student Affairs. Intervention, if appropriate, will be determined and enacted. In some cases, university supervisors should make these contacts before midpoint.