Section 3

A Progressive Field Experience

Every effort is being made for teacher candidates/interns to have a progressive clinical field experience at the PDS partner school. A progressive experience is one in which the interns move through the following experiences with their mentors and classes.

* + **Observe a variety of classes both inside and outside their major** to gain a broad view of the school’s teaching and learning. This will assist the interns in understanding the school culture, climate and expectations.
  + **Observe classes in major and with mentor as instructor**. This allows interns to gain a sense of the teaching and learning in their content department and with their mentor. This will enable the intern in understanding the teaching, learning, assessment and classroom management processes in their department and with their mentor in a variety of organizational, planning and teaching situations.
  + **Engage in instructional support activities**. In addition to observing, the interns are encouraged to pursue engaging support activities with their mentors and their students. This includes activities such as
    - Taking attendance, handing back papers and tutoring
    - Conducting research to improve curriculum, instruction or assessment
    - Facilitating/chaperoning field trips
    - Organizing physical classroom setting
    - Grading student’s papers, projects, exams and quizzes
    - Using technology, including laptop computer rooms
    - Preparing bulletin boards
    - Delivering short presentations to students
* Setting up demonstrations, experiments, labs or technology work
* Attending department meetings/faculty meetings
* Attending/participating in student events
* Attending professional education meetings
* **Assist with small group instruction**. The intern may work with small groups of students. They may assist the classroom teacher with cooperative learning groups and projects. This might include:
  + Facilitating small group work in class, library or other setting
  + Preparing digital presentations or other resources for the small group instruction
  + Conducting small group instruction
  + Providing mentor with feedback about student performance
  + Supervising students during work sessions
  + Providing students with appropriate feedback and encouragement.
* **Co-teach with mentor**. This allows the intern to teach cooperatively with the mentor.
* **Co-plan with mentor**. The mentor and intern collaborate on planning lessons taught by one or both.
* **Plan, implement and teach three continuous lessons**. Prior to and during this phase, the intern will be consulting with the mentor regarding their lesson planning and assessing their teaching effectiveness. The intern will provide their mentor with Teaching Skills Analysis Forms (TSAFs) prior to each lesson taught. The mentor provides timely feedback to the intern after

each lesson through the use of the TSAF and constructive feedback. Prior to the conference, the intern will provide the mentor with a Summative Evaluation form. During the final conference, there will be a discussion of important aspects of the teaching experience, the intern’s performance and specific recommendations for improvement.

**A Final Note on the Progressive Experience**

There is one important caveat to completing any of the progressive activities listed previously. There must be a positive degree of communication and trust before interns are allowed to progress through the experience. The mentor must have evidence that the intern is reliable, responsible and has the professional demeanor and skills to assume more responsibility and independence. The mentor, in conjunction with the PDS instructor, has the authority for and responsibility of determining the appropriate involvement with instructional support duties for each intern. In most cases, it is expected that each student will move through the steps as suggested by the course calendar.