Florida A&M University

College of Education

FIELD/CLINICAL EXPERIENCES PROGRAM

The purpose of the field/clinical experiences program is to provide pre-service teachers an opportunity to actively participate in structured field/clinical experiences using an integrated approach. During these experiences, the pre-service teachers are exposed to different teaching methods, strategies, and techniques employed by a diverse population of teachers in diverse school environments. Careful planning, monitoring, and assessing of the pre-service teachers characterize the field-based and clinical experiences. These experiences include activities in satellite and cooperating schools as well as at the university and are of 100 hours duration. A more complete description of the field/clinical experiences program is provided in the College of Education Field/Clinical Guide for Pre-service Teachers.

FIELD-BASED AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCES DEFINED

The National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) definitions are used as guides to the clinical and field-based experiences in the Professional Education Unit. Florida A&M University has adopted these definitions, and they are presented as follows:

Field-Based Experiences

Field-based experiences are activities conducted at a school site, a school administration center, a school clinic, or a community agency. These experiences might include classroom observations, tutoring, assisting school administrators or teachers, participation in school and community-wide activities. Planning is an ongoing process shared by the professional education unit and the appropriate agencies.

Clinical Experiences

Clinical experiences are those activities that are characterized by carefully planned stipulated goals, required activities, projected performance levels and evaluation of growth. Included are experiences gained from micro teaching clinics, participation experiences, skill clinics, the development of case studies of individual students, curriculum development clinics, and the use of instructional
technology and/or computers. These are conducted either as school-based or campus-based experiences. Activities excluded from the criteria for clinical experiences include general observations, voluntary community service, orientation visits, teacher assistance, and periodic visitations to educational settings.

**EARLY FIELD EXPERIENCE**

The Office of Field/Clinical Experience secures between 300 and 400 off-campus field placements each semester. The office works with approximately 30 schools and 200 teachers within a 20-mile radius of Tallahassee, Florida. Early Field Experiences are designed to provide college students with an opportunity to examine the daily lives of teachers.

Florida A&M University students observe teachers and are expected to participate in kindergarten through high school classrooms in a variety of ways. At the introductory level, student’s grade homework, give test, lead-small reading groups, and work one-on-one with children. As students advance through their academic course of study, they design and deliver lesson plans as well as learn classroom management strategies. It is our hope these experiences will cement a student's decision and commitment to become a teacher. For security purposes all field experience students must complete a Leon County School criminal background check before beginning observation/participation hours.

To maximize student time and ensure continued growth over-time a series of congruent field-based and clinical experiences have been organized across the professional education unit. However, please note that for program integrity, some programs may deviate from the series and time apportionment system as appropriate to best meet the needs of the specific program.