

GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICUM STUDENTS AND COOPERATING TEACHERS

Office of Student Field Experiences
The University of Iowa

The Introduction to Teaching course is designed to provide students who have been admitted to the teacher Education Program classroom experiences under the supervision of an experienced school teacher. During this practicum assignment, students should increase their familiarity with the functions of the school and the interrelationships between the school, teacher, and students. Ideally, this experience will provide a linkage to professional educational courses subsequently taken and help individual students to make sound decisions concerning the appropriateness of teaching as a personal career choice.

Students are assigned to a cooperating teacher or teachers in elementary, middle or secondary schools in Iowa City or nearby communities. Course responsibilities include:

- time in one or more public schools,
- assigned classroom observations and participation, and
- lectures and seminars conducted by University faculty or instructors.

The scheduling pattern varies by program area depending on such factors as number of students, placement sites, and instructional program design.

Depending on the program area, students enrolled in this course for two or more semester hours of credit are expected to spend, in addition to their seminars, six to twelve hours per week in a school setting. The specific hours and days of the week for these experiences are based on compatible schedules and confirmed by the Office of Student Field Experiences. Students have a responsibility to be present for each assigned practicum session and must notify the cooperating teacher if for any reason they are unable to attend a scheduled session. Cooperating teachers are asked to report patterns of absenteeism to mary-heath@uiowa.edu or 319/335-5361 and allow students to make up legitimate absences. Unexcused absences and absences not made up may result in a failing grade.

Cooperating teachers are asked to complete the evaluation form and return it to **The Office of Student Field Experiences, N310 Lindquist Center** at the end of the experience. The practicum experience is rated on a satisfactory/fail basis. The final course grade is assigned by University faculty or instructors and based upon the cooperating teacher's completed evaluation and the required seminar assignments.

The practicum experience should be an opportunity for student exploration and personal growth and development. The value of this experience depends in large measure on the degree of student involvement. Cooperating teachers are encouraged to allow practicum students to assist with as many aspects of the instructional process as seems appropriate. (See Activity Guidelines)