Policies and Procedures for Field Experiences, Internships and Clinical Experience - Initial Teacher Preparation

Field Experience Placement Policies

• Field placements are very important to candidates in the teacher preparation program. Georgia Southern University and its Partner Schools place great importance on field experiences.

• All field experiences are coordinated between the Office of Initial Teacher Preparation and Assessment, academic programs, and Partner Schools.

• An attempt will be made to place two or more teacher candidates in a school. An exception to this clustering policy could be rendered by a program or department. This exception would be a result of specialization required of the clinical supervisor. (This does not apply to candidates in an on-line Master of Arts in Teaching program).

• One geographical area will serve Georgia Southern’s teacher candidate population. The primary area is approximately 70 miles from each Georgia Southern campus (this includes Teachers of Record enrolled in non-online MAT programs). Candidates can expect the maximum one-way travel of 70 miles or less from Georgia Southern to a school placement. (This policy does not apply to candidates in a fully on-line Master of Arts in Teaching program).

• All field placements and clinical practice assignments are identified and assigned by the program director/coordinator. Placements are not negotiable.

• Teacher candidates seldom receive a field placement at a school site where they have had a previous field experience placement. This policy provides candidates with diversity in placements and teaching experiences. The exception to this policy is year-long placements during the senior year.

• Teacher candidates are not placed in schools where they have attended, relatives are employed, or relatives are enrolled as students.

• Teacher candidates that have an identified disability requiring accommodations during a field experience or clinical practice must consult with the Student Accessibility Resource Center the semester prior to the field experience to discuss accommodations. All teacher candidates must successfully demonstrate their ability to meet, with or without accommodations, the standards and expectations of the teaching profession.

• Teacher candidates are limited to enrolling in a maximum of 12 semester hours during the clinical practice semester. The exception to this is when a candidate is enrolled in ESED 5235 and/or COED 3160.

• Candidates enrolled in a Master of Arts in Teaching program and hired by a school system as a Teacher of Record must be teaching full time in the content area of the certification they are seeking during their semester of clinical practice/internship.

Intervention Policies for Field Experiences, Student Teaching, and Internship

• Candidates are allowed a maximum of two (2) Professional Support plans (A/B) (each for different areas of difficulty) per field experience, or clinical practice.

• Candidates are allowed a maximum of one (1) Probationary Status per field experience, or clinical practice.

• Candidates may repeat each field experience, or clinical practice one (1) time.

• Withdrawing without academic penalty, withdrawing failing, or withdrawing at the recommendation of the program faculty from a field experience, or clinical practice will be considered one (1) attempt at that field experience.

• When school personnel request that a candidate be removed from the school for performance or professional reasons the placement will end immediately. A new field placement will rarely be identified until the following semester.