

Information for Teacher Candidates in Methods Classes

The fundamental requirements for our methods clinical placement in all program-major areas are:

1. **Time Requirement:** The teacher candidates in methods classes are required to complete the hours during the semester (fall ends in early December and spring ends in early May). Teacher candidates will contact the cooperating teacher to determine the start date of the practicum experience and to determine the specific schedule. It's ideal that the teacher candidate starts as early as possible. Teacher candidates are expected to demonstrate professional demeanor at all times and should establish the best method of communication (email, cell number, school phone number) and communicate to make sure the cooperating teacher knows when they are coming. If s/he is sick or has an emergency and cannot make it to a prearranged class, it is his/her responsibility to let the cooperating teacher know well in advance. Treat your first email or contact with the teacher (and every interaction after that) as if it were an interview for a job. Word travels quickly among schools and back to us about teacher candidates who are doing particularly well as well as those struggling with professional demeanor.
2. **Evidence of Student Learning:** At some point in this methods clinical experience, we require students to lead at least one lesson, complete a pre- and post-assessment, and analyze and reflect on the evidence of student learning. Some practicum placements may require more teaching. Evidence of student learning is a requirement of our state and national standards for teacher preparation, designed to see that the teacher candidate can put into practice what they have learned in our methods course and in classroom observation.

Teacher candidates will consult cooperating teachers for an appropriate topic and develop lesson plans for the class(es). Once a date has been set for teaching that lesson, teacher candidates will let the university supervisor know so he or she can come to observe.

3. **Hours Verification:** At the end of the methods clinical experience, teacher candidates will enter hours and complete the methods clinical rubric in Tk20. There are four categories for hours in methods placements: observation (observing in the classroom and during meetings); teaching (teaching a lesson to a small or large group); planning (planning lessons during or outside of school hours); and other activities.

If you have questions please contact your methods instructor.