



Early Childhood/Special Education Majors Professional Development Communities

All teacher candidates considering teacher education will be involved as professionals in public school service from the beginning of their programs. The quality, competitiveness, and effectiveness of UNG graduates in the current job market is greatly enhanced by the amount of clinical experience they receive during their programs.

All teacher candidates accepted into the Teacher Education ECE/SPED Program will participate in a school/university partnership (Professional Development Community). A Professional Development School (PDC) Program involves full day, full year teaching and learning experiences for UNG teacher candidates and faculty at a partner school. Ideally, these experiences are completely integrated with the professional development program at the PDS so that UNG teacher candidates and faculty study together with PDS teachers in a collaborative and supportive environment.

The UNG College of Education is engaged in PDS relationships with the Dawson, Forsyth, Lumpkin/North Hall, and South Hall county school systems. Teacher candidates do not select the school placements that they want - this is a condition of accreditation. Teacher candidates are assigned to placements by the field placement office to ensure that the placements meet all of the requirements for their programs as outlined by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and CAEP for accreditation and teacher certification. The teacher candidate's place of residence is taken into consideration when possible to help limit their travel time. Typically groups of teacher candidates are placed in each school enabling efficient car-pooling to reduce transportation costs.

Highlights of Professional Development Schools include:

- University faculty work directly with PDS classroom teachers in planning assignments that combine course objectives with direct curricular applications in the field classroom.
- Interns and preservice teacher candidates participating in a PDS model will be expected to follow the schedule of field placement teachers (e.g., teacher candidates typically begin field placement when k-12 mentors return for pre-planning).
- Supervision of interns in a PDS field placement is done by faculty and school personnel who work directly with the interns.
- PDS Partnerships offer college faculty, interns, and classroom teachers opportunities to work together collaboratively

The increased visibility of interns in field sites as well as the increased responsibility and voice interns are given requires maturity, professionalism and a strong commitment from everyone involved. All teacher candidates accepted into College of Education programs will be subject to Field Placement Fees for a series of courses during the program. The fee is assessed on a course by course basis. This fee will be in addition to the normal tuition and fees assessed by the university.

*** Requests for this document in another format should be directed to Kathy Moody at kmoody@ung.edu or 706-864-1757 ***

College of Education, 110 Dunlap Hall, Dahlonega, GA 30597 ~ 706-867-3210 Fax 706-867-2880

Cumming Dahlonega Gainesville Oconee

The University of North Georgia is designated as The Military College of Georgia and as a State Leadership Institution.