



# Cleveland State University

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College of Education and Human Services

*Office of the Dean*

June 5, 2020

Dear Candidates,

This message provides information about what candidates enrolled in an internship/apprentice teaching experience for Fall 2020 can expect. We understand the ongoing uncertainty of the COVID pandemic situation is stressful especially in addition to other stressors you may be experiencing during this crisis.

Although we cannot provide you with a full set of definitive answers about the fall, we assure you that college staff are working hard throughout the summer to ensure a meaningful and educative experience. Your experience will prepare you for teaching and qualify you for licensure. As college staff engage in this work, they are operating under these principles:

1. **Safety of teacher candidates, K-12 teachers and students, and university clinical faculty is paramount.** The college will adhere closely to all Ohio governor's public health orders and protocols, as well as district-specific procedures adopted by our K-12 partners.
2. **Adherence to licensing requirements will be maintained.** The Ohio Department of Higher Education and legislature has been flexible in working with educator preparation programs to satisfy licensure requirements. The college will continue to monitor and adjust accordingly to ensure that all licensure requirements are met.
3. **Flexibility is key.** Because of the changing nature of the pandemic, shifting policies, and variation in K-12 approaches for repopulating K-12 schools, we ask you to be flexible in your expectations for the upcoming field experience. It will most likely include a combination of face-to-face, live remote, and asynchronous online instruction. Supervision and seminars may look very different, and everyone will need to be prepared to adapt to new and sometimes uncomfortable technologies.
4. **Communication is valued.** The college will provide you with the most up-to-date and accurate information available to us. New information will be shared via email and posted on college web sites. Please check these regularly for updates.
5. **Partnerships are essential.** The college has established strong partnerships with K-12 schools. We fully expect to provide experiences for all candidates, and we will seek assistance from our partners in arranging these experiences. In return for providing opportunities for our candidates, the college is committed to addressing the needs of K-12 schools as they move to deliver instruction in new ways. All school personnel, including teacher candidates, may need to take on new roles.

The following paragraphs include important information and dates that may have shifted, so please note the following:

1. **Placement information** will come later in the summer, after district partners have confirmed fall COVID procedures for allowing student interns into the school and we have clearer pictures for school capacity to host interns.
2. **Non-Academic Prerequisites.** The deadline for submitting your packet is now **August 7<sup>th</sup>** (BCI/FBI, physical, Hep B, TB tests, register for OAEs). If you are having difficulty getting updated an background check or immunizations, please keep the Office of Field Services informed so that we know about your status.
3. **Licensure tests.** The official college policy for internship/apprentice teaching 2 candidates (i.e. completing the program in the fall) is to take all licensure tests prior to the experience. Although some Pearson testing sites are open, many are still closed. Our current expectation is that you show proof of **registration** for all required tests by **August 7<sup>th</sup>**.
4. **Orientation. August 20, 2020.** Orientation activities will be held virtually. Access information to be provided through OFS later in the summer.
5. **Professional Development.** To supplement your clinical experience and provide you with additional skills for remote and face-to-face teaching, the college will be coordinating additional professional development experiences in special topics.
6. **Postponing fall experience.** If you feel you cannot complete a fall experience for any reason, please reach out to the Office of Field Services to discuss and talk through the available options.

We hope that this has provided you with assurances and information about fall experiences. Please know that we are committed to your success and program completion. Feel free to reach out to us to share any concerns you may have. We are here to help.

Sincerely,

Sajit Zachariah  
Dean

Brian Yusko  
Associate Dean

Tachelle Banks  
Associate Dean