

School of Education

Professional Field Experience

Prior to entering the final stage of preparation, which is characterized in most options by participation in a practicum or internship, a faculty committee will evaluate each candidate's performance in the program. Admission into this final professional preparation phase is a faculty decision and is separate from entry into the graduate program. Dispositional challenges, including inadequate academic performance, unprofessional behavior, unsatisfactory field reports, or other factors, may result in denial of entry to the professional field experience. Performance in practicum and internship is closely monitored, with stated minimum competencies and the development of individual objectives. Since this is the practice and application phase of professional development, it is assumed that candidates will demonstrate appropriate professional dispositions with respect to their professional actions, attitude, and performance.

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development issues certificates/endorsements as a result of successful program completion, as verified by the School of Education Dean.

Field Placements

Most School of Education graduate programs require field experiences in school or agency settings. The School of Education works with Alaska school districts to offer diverse placements for students. Diversity of placements refers to grade levels and types of schools. It is our policy to, whenever possible, ensure students receive diverse placements in schools and grade levels. Students who live in rural districts will be placed in the most diverse placements possible in their location.

Criminal History Background Clearance

The School of Education requires compliance with specific background clearance policies and procedures for candidates participating in university-sponsored fieldwork. In some cases, criminal history background clearance is required for admission to a program. In addition to self-disclosure of criminal history to the School of Education and its partners, a check of the Alaska and national sex offender registries, a fingerprint-based check by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and a name-based check through the Alaska Public Safety Information Network may be required. Various agencies and centers may have additional requirements.

Failure to comply with the School of Education background check requirements will result in denial of access to field placement settings. Failure to pass the criminal history background check will result in removal from the program. More information is available on the School of Education website (<https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/school-of-education/>).

Cooperating School/Agency

Practica, internships, and other field experiences are only coordinated in cooperation with participating school districts and agencies. School of Education clinical partners reserve the right to request additional

information and/or preparation from candidates in accordance with their established policies/practices. Partner districts and agencies also determine the number of available spaces and placements for candidates. Placements may become competitive if the number of applicants exceeds the number of spaces. Districts and agencies also reserve the right to refuse or terminate placements when candidates do not meet an acceptable standard of performance. Thus, while the university makes every effort to find appropriate field placements for candidates, admittance to a degree/certificate/endorsement program does not guarantee acceptance by cooperating school districts or agencies. Unacceptable academic performance, an unprofessional attitude, unsatisfactory field reports, violation of professional ethics, or other factors may result in removal from the field placement.

Transfer

Candidates who have taken all or part of an approved program at another university must take at least 9 credits of approved education courses at the University of Alaska prior to being admitted to an advanced practicum or internship.