

To: Potential student teacher candidates
From: Dr. Kohl, Coordinator of Clinical Practice
RE: General information
Date: September 13, 2007

I am looking forward to working with you in the student teaching experience! You will need to make sure that you have completed all of your requirements (fingerprints, TB, CBEST, etc.) for student teaching by the deadlines, which are typically in the semester **prior to** student teaching. Please see Christie Pearson-Wohlwend, our certification officer at the Mission Valley campus, if you have questions. You will register for classes along with Student Teaching I (EDU 540) and Student Teaching Seminar (EDU 541) during your first semester. The actual report dates will be given to you just prior to the semester's start.

Clinical practice placements, in general, follow a pattern. If you are teaching in the fall or spring, you will typically be placed across a broad geographical area, but in general, south of the 8 freeway. If you student teach in summer (**available only to Student Teaching II multiple subject students**), you will be placed in San Diego Unified District. Typically, there are 2-5 students clustered at each school. (Single subject students only: you will complete a junior high experience in the fall semester and a high school placement in the spring semester. The high school placement for single subject students begins in January and ends in mid-June (half-days), so please plan accordingly. ***There is no high school placement available in summer term.***) The State requirements to provide intensive and extensive placement experiences in diverse school settings govern our placement decisions. We have a great working relationship with the schools in the area and the administrators have wonderful things to say about PLNU students! I'm sure you will continue that legacy.

The student teaching experience for multiple-subject students and junior high placements begins with some Friday observations and then a full-time, intensive 8-10 week experience in the classroom (specific dates announced at the beginning of each semester, as school breaks, etc., determine actual dates). The School of Education faculty recommendation is that you *do not work or participate in volunteer activities* during this time in order to fully dedicate yourself to the experience.

If you have any questions about student teaching in general, please email me at robinkohl@pointloma.edu. I can't answer any advisory or specific requirement questions, but I will be happy to answer general questions. I look forward to seeing you in our program!

Frequently Asked Questions about Student Teaching

I have a friend/relative who works in a district. Can I student teach at the same school?

You are not allowed to student teach in a school where a relative works or where your children attend. You may occasionally be placed in a different school in the same district.

I want to student teach in a particular school. May I talk to the principal to arrange it?

Please do not make any contacts on your own. Each district has specific guidelines that we are asked to follow, and personal contact may circumvent the process. District personnel may have reasons for not allowing student teachers at a particular school for reasons unknown to the principal, and this puts everyone involved in an awkward situation. If you do have a particular request, there is an opportunity to note it on your registration card the semester prior to student teaching.

I have a mission trip/wedding planned during student teaching and plans have already been made. Will I be able to get the time off?

There are no personal days or excused absences during student teaching. If you have an event planned that will require days off, you must student teach in a different semester. Missing time during student teaching interrupts the experience and is detrimental to the students. Student teaching is a professional commitment and requires adherence to a standard teaching contract. (Missing one day will not jeopardize the experience, although it will affect your grade.)

I am on a sports/music scholarship and need to be excused for events. Is this okay?

The student teaching experience is a professional internship and thus is governed by a standard teacher's contract. You will not be excused from student teaching for sports/music events, so you must plan to student teach in semesters that will not conflict with your performance schedule.

When must I meet my requirements for testing, fingerprinting, etc.?

Deadlines for student teaching are in the semester **prior to** the student teaching experience. Testing schedules are sporadic, so check the dates early and leave an extra test date in case of emergency. A request to student teach is binding---if there is an emergency and you need to delay student teaching, please make the request in writing as soon as possible.

Other questions? Email Dr. Kohl, Coordinator of Clinical Practice, at robinkohl@pointloma.edu.