The Privilege of Being a Teaching Intern
And the Responsibilities

The Privilege.

When schools and teachers welcome us as guests into their homes, it is an honor. Each district, school, and teacher is charged with preparing each New Jersey child for success. As a teacher candidate, you are being invited to assist in this important mission.

Working side-by-side with a New Jersey teacher in his or her classroom is a privilege. Cherish the chance. Seize the opportunity to be a productive team member and to support the teacher’s and school’s mission.

The Responsibilities.

The privilege of serving as an invited guest teacher intern carries important responsibilities. Demonstrate the utmost respect for others, professionalism, and dedication to assisting them with their mission. Be there earlier, stay later, and offer to help with everything. Know your content and methods well. Be prepared with your materials well in advance. Submit lessons for review and modification at least a week in advance. Ask questions; seek the expertise of your mentor teacher all the time; always show deference to your host’s wisdom, experience, and insight.

When You Do Not Live Up to the Responsibilities.

When you do not live up to your professional responsibilities as a guest teacher intern, it can negatively impact your relationship with the school and mentor teacher or the progress of your students. If the school, cooperating teacher, or your Rowan supervisor believes that this is occurring, you may be asked by your supervisor to complete the requirements of a 10-day remediation plan in order to strengthen your work and remain in clinical practice. The school and collaborating teacher also have the right to request your immediate removal from that placement.

If you are asked to leave by the school/teacher or as a result of unsuccessful completion of the 10-day plan, you will be discontinued from clinical practice for the semester. You will meet with Rowan College of Education officials to determine a further remediation plan. Completion of that remediation will be a benchmark expectation in order to register for clinical practice a 2nd time. Note that it may take the Office of Field Experience at least a semester to find a 2nd clinical practice placement for you and that withdrawal from Clinical Practice for any reason may affect student financial aid.

Make Your Clinical Practice Semester A Success!

Clinical Practice Do’s

• Go Above and Beyond
  ❖ Arrive early
  ❖ Leave late
  ❖ Do extras
  ❖ Take initiative, be proactive, help with everything

• Always Show a Positive, Professional Demeanor
  ❖ Dress as a professional
  ❖ Greet everyone; smile
  ❖ Attend all teacher meetings
  ❖ Be friendly and collegial with all faculty & staff
  ❖ Present questions, dilemmas in a positive frame

• Be Prepared
  ❖ Turn lessons in well in advance; have sub lessons ready for your absence
  ❖ Prepare materials the day before
  ❖ Research content well
  ❖ Consult extensively with mentor teacher and supervisor

Always Remember…

• Be “On” and Engaged With Your Class At All Times (not the place to do prep, homework, other tasks)
• Don’t Be Late with Anything
• Avoid Any Appearance of Being Unprepared
• Never Ask Your Collaborating Teacher To Do Your Work or Prep For You
• Keep Social Encounters Professional (avoid gossip and situations involving alcoholic beverages)
• Avoid Complaining or Appearance of Dissatisfaction
• Respect Your Mentors’ Advice, Even If You Disagree
• Avoid Cell Phone Use

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