Information for Education Specialist Cooperating Teachers

Cooperating Teacher Qualifications
Selection of cooperating teachers is a collaborative process between schools and the University. Cooperating teachers must meet the following requirements:

1. Have at least three years of successful K-12 teaching experience
2. Hold a valid California teaching credential that authorizes them for the subject and services they are providing
3. Be recognized by the site principal as an effective teacher (including literacy instruction in the content areas) who has potential for, or demonstrated competence as, a cooperating teacher
4. Understand the aims, structure, and procedures of the professional education program
5. Be willing to share expertise, materials, and classroom instruction by co-teaching with candidate
6. Demonstrate willingness to work with School of Education faculty via orientation sessions, three-way conferences, and ongoing communication

Cooperating Teacher Responsibilities
Cooperating teachers are dedicated professionals who work closely with university supervisors to help candidates become successful teachers. They provide supervision, guidance, instruction, and coaching to candidates by:

- Introducing candidate to administration, staff, and colleagues; orienting candidate to school activities and culture
- Providing a suitable workspace for candidate in the classroom
- Knowing and implementing co-teaching strategies
- Completing co-teaching and pairs training with candidate
- Committing to weekly co-planning time with candidate
- Sharing with candidate the use of student assessment data to inform instructional practices
- Modeling effective teaching and management strategies
- Helping candidate make connections between course assignments, classroom practice, and student learning (Candidate is responsible for letting the CT know, in a timely manner, about course assignments that involve the classroom placement.)
- Providing candidates multiple and varied opportunities to teach
- Guiding candidates to develop lesson plans using California’s new standards
- Conducting observations and giving candidate clear written and verbal feedback with suggestions for developing his/her teaching
- Discussing with candidate how to make curricula accessible to all students and meet the needs of diverse learners
- Providing a classroom that supports a diverse, democratic, and socially responsible environment
Credential Candidate Responsibilities
The credential candidate is responsible for fulfilling the following requirements in the classroom placement:

Teaching Practicum I
- Participates in the classroom for 4 out of 5 full days a week, starting with the first district work day.
- Shares and follows a "phase in schedule" which outlines weekly responsibilities
- Writes lesson plans or instructional programs for the lessons they teach
- Completes a 5-day practice solo teach
- Has 4-formal observations completed by the university supervisor
- CT is asked to complete two formal observations and to do a midway check in with the candidate

Teaching Practicum II
- Participates in the classroom for 4 out of 5 full days a week starting with the first district work day.
- Shares and follows a "phase in schedule" which outlines weekly responsibilities
- Writes lesson plans or instructional programs for the lessons they teach
- Completes a 15-day solo teach IF they have earned an average of 2 on all formal observations
- Has 4-formal observations completed by the university supervisor
- CT is asked to complete two formal observations and to do a midway check in with the candidate

Additional information
For your convenience, the Concurrent and Education Specialist Program Handbooks are on our website: www.csuchico.edu/soe. This website provides a detailed description of the program and the requirements of teacher candidates.

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