

Information for Mentor Teachers

Mentor Teacher Qualifications

Selection of mentor teachers is a collaborative process between schools and the University. Mentor 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. Demonstrate willingness to work with School of Education faculty via orientation sessions, three-way conferences, and ongoing communication

Mentor Teacher Responsibilities

Mentor teachers are knowledgeable and skilled professionals who work closely with university supervisors to help candidates become successful teachers. They provide supervision, guidance, instruction, and coaching to candidates by:

- Participating in a minimum of 10-hours of initial orientation to the program curriculum, about effective supervision approaches such as cognitive coaching, adult learning theory, and current content-specific pedagogy and instructional practices
- Benefiting from ongoing support to remain current in the knowledge and skills for candidate supervision and program expectations
- Introducing candidate to administration, staff and colleagues; orienting candidate to school activities and culture
- Providing a suitable workspace for candidate in the classroom
- Establishing planning time with the candidate
- Sharing with candidate the use of student assessment data to inform instructional practices.
- Modeling effective teaching and management strategies
- Helping credential candidate make connections between course assignments, classroom practice, and student learning (Candidate is responsible for letting the teacher 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 evidenced-based instruction
- Conducting observations and giving candidate clear written and verbal feedback with suggestions for developing his/her teaching
- Discussing with the candidate how to make curricula accessible to all students and meet the needs of diverse learners
- Provides a classroom that supports a diverse, democratic, and socially responsible environment

For questions regarding placements, contact:

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