

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Traditional Masters Degree Candidates
Enrolled in FED 501 or FED 521 and FED 600

FROM: Karen Foster, Director
Office of Field Experiences

DATE: November 14, 2008

RE: Structured Field Experiences

All candidates who are enrolled in advanced programs are required to complete field experiences. Traditional Masters Degree Candidates enrolled in FED 501 or FED 521 courses and Ed.S. students enrolled in FED 600 must complete field experiences and provide documentation of the experiences to The Office of Field Experiences.

The following is a quotation, taken from the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) website, that describes the nature and type of experiences expected at the advanced level:

"Licensed teachers who are continuing their education in advanced programs are expected to complete structured field experiences in settings that (1) deepen their understanding of the knowledge, skills, and professional dispositions that foster student learning and (2) broaden their ability to apply this knowledge and these skills and professional dispositions so that they are able to help all students learn. These structured field experiences can take place in multiple settings such as neighboring schools or school districts, day care centers and after-school programs, alternate youth centers, or in the schools and classrooms in which the candidates work."

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The following are the guidelines for completing the requirements through The School of Education at Alabama A & M University:

1. The candidate will select a school or agency that is uniquely opposite in demographics from the school in which he/she is currently working (e.g., SES, ELL).
2. The candidate will originate and determine the type of project or activity that will foster student learning and help all students learn.
3. The candidate will record the number of hours (at least 10 hours of field experiences) on the attached timesheet and have the principal or supervisor from the cooperating school or agency sign the documents and complete the assessment sheet.
4. The candidate will document, with a narrative, *how the experiences (1) deepened the understanding of the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that foster student learning and (2) broadened the ability ...to help all students learn.*
5. The candidate **may** complete more than one activity in more than one setting or location, such as Boys and Girls Clubs, classroom collaborative projects or exchanges.

The intent of this requirement is to enable advanced teacher education candidates to broaden their ability to apply knowledge, skills, and professional dispositions to help all students learn. Any questions regarding this requirement, should be directed to Dr. Karen Foster, Director of Field Experiences, at 372-5509.