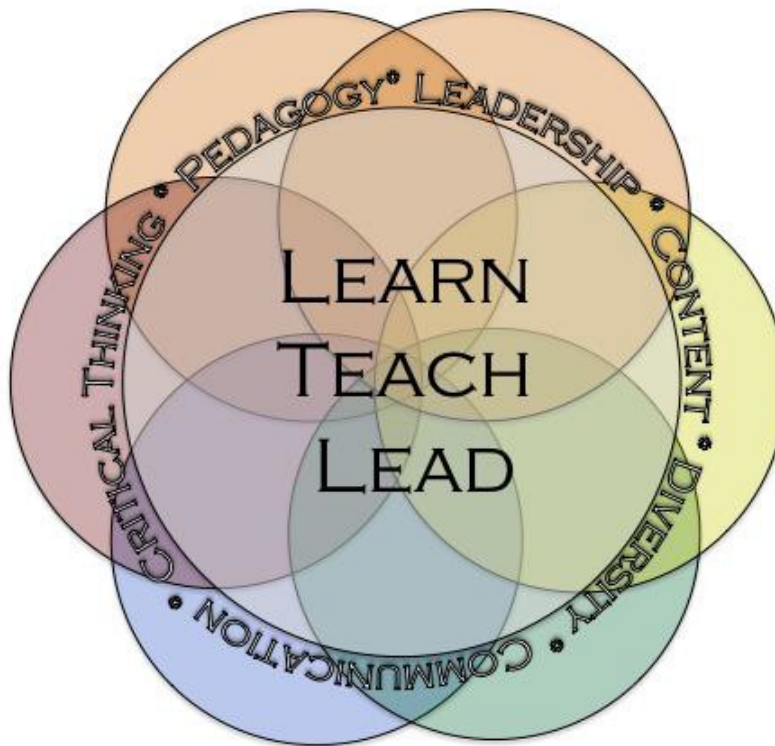


College of Education

Alternative-A Candidate Handbook

Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.)



THE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM AT UAH

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Introduction to the Field Experience Program

The Field Experience Program (FEP) is an integral part of the Teacher Education Program at The University of Alabama in Huntsville. It provides candidates with opportunities to become familiar with and participate in a variety of instructional settings. From one semester to the next, candidates are provided with opportunities to become more actively involved in classroom settings. As they gain more knowledge of learners, content, and methodology, they participate in a set of sequential and systematic experiences that enable them to connect the knowledge and skills acquired in campus-based coursework with what they observe and do in public school settings.

The FEP is designed to provide a continuum of experiences that enables candidates acquire the knowledge, skills, and dispositions essential to their growth as professionals. Candidates are expected to complete 210 hours of field experiences prior to the internship. Each semester candidates will complete a minimum of 70 hours in a school setting, as they move from simply observing, participating and tutoring students during Block 1 experiences, to teaching small group and whole class lessons during Blocks 2 and 3 experiences and finally assuming full responsibility for the classroom during their student teaching. *However, if an MAT student will be in the program more than 3 semesters, they may spread out their field experiences and lower the number of hours needed.*

Each level of field experiences addresses competencies integral to the UAH *Teacher as Leader* model. As candidates progress through the program and become more actively engaged in instructional responsibilities during each level of field experiences, they will be expected to demonstrate novice, then intermediate, and finally expert abilities in each competency area.

Candidates enrolled in Blocks 1 field experiences will focus primarily on *Diversity*. Candidates enrolled in Blocks 2 and 3 field experiences will focus on developing as *Content* and *Pedagogy*; they will refine their competencies in the area of *Diversity*. Candidates enrolled in the internship—will demonstrate their abilities in all competencies as a high level. At all levels, candidates will demonstrate increasing competency in the areas of *Communications*, *Critical Thinking*, and *Professionalism*.

Field experiences are an integral component of the course requirements and curricula. Failure to successfully complete field experiences will result in incomplete grades and/or course failure and will delay and/or prevent the candidate's admission to the Teacher Education Program or the internship.

As per ALSDE Regulations, if an Alt-A student is employed as a teacher within an accredited school, UAH will work with their employer to meet their field experience needs through their job.

Competency Focus for Field Experiences

Level of Field Experiences	Setting	Grade Level Placements
Block 1. Competency Focus: Diversity	Urban Title I Schools Huntsville City Schools All candidates will have one week near the middle of the semester where on-campus classes are cancelled – students are expected to be at their assigned school for 3-5 consecutive days.	Elementary: Grades K-2 Secondary: Middle or High schools P-12: K-6
Block 2 Competency Focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content • Pedagogy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> **Teaching, **Assessing, **Managing the Learning Environment 	Rural Schools Madison County Schools **ARI & AMSIT Schools All candidates will have one week near the middle of the semester where on-campus classes are cancelled – students are expected to be at their assigned school for 3-5 consecutive days.	Elementary: ED 575: grades K-2 ED 615: grades 3-5 Secondary: High or Middle schools P-12: Secondary Elementary education majors should plan to spend the equivalent of one full day in schools each week.
Block 3 Competency Focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content • Pedagogy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> **Teaching, **Assessing, **Managing the Learning Environment 	EED: Suburban Schools (high SES) – Madison City or Huntsville City** SED: Madison City or Huntsville City schools** **ARI & AMSTI Schools All candidates will have one week near the middle of the semester where on-campus classes are cancelled – students are expected to be at their assigned school for 3-5 consecutive days.	Elementary –ED 575 - grades K-2 ED 615 - grades 3-5 Secondary – High or Middle schools P-12: Secondary Elementary education majors should plan to spend the equivalent of one full day in schools each week.
Summer		OR EHL 506 – Huntsville or Madison City ELL Camps
Internship All Competencies	Placements Varied	Elementary: K-3 and 3-5 Secondary & Middle and High School P-12: K-6 and 6-12

Candidates will develop strengths in three competencies throughout each semester: Communications, Critical Thinking, and Professionalism