

Alternative Certification Program
Internship Handbook
2025-2026

Key Stakeholders

College Dean

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Nelson University Department of Education

Alternative Certification Internship Handbook

Introduction

The Alternative Certification Internship is one of the most rewarding experiences in your professional development as a teacher. It will be a challenging experience that will provide you with many opportunities to test learning theory and practice, to discover your personal strengths and weaknesses, and to increase the skill and understanding required in the teaching profession.

Everyone associated with the Nelson University Teach Texas program is committed to helping you become a successful teacher. The success of the internship depends on the internship candidate. The campus mentor and the field supervisor will provide recommendations to promote success. Cooperation of the Alternative Certification Program (ACP) internship candidate is imperative. This handbook contains critical information and guidelines designed to help you achieve success during the internship.

Purpose

The ACP Internship is one of the final steps candidates complete in their journey to become a certified Texas state educator. The internship is designed to take place over the course of one academic year in a Texas Education Agency (TEA) accredited school in Texas. Throughout the school year, teacher interns receive guidance and support from their campus mentor and university field supervisor as they work through the internship process.

Criminal Background Check

Prior to Internship and possibly field-based experiences, students will be required to undergo school district criminal history checks. The state of Texas also requires a criminal background check before an individual can receive a Texas teacher certification. Information regarding requirements for certification may be found on the TEA website at: https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/certification/educator-certification-online-system

Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 227.101c) states that a person who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a State Board of Educator Certification-approved educator preparation program or planning to take a certification examination may request a preliminary criminal history evaluation letter regarding the person's potential ineligibility for certification due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense. For more information about the Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation, go to the

link: https://tea.texas.gov/Texas Educators/Investigations/Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation-FAQs

Texas Educator Code of Ethics

Teachers have a responsibility to perform their duties in an ethical and professional manner. All

teachers are required to uphold all aspects of the Texas Education Code of Ethics. Review the Code of Ethics in the Appendix of this handbook or at https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/laws-and-rules/sbec-rules-tac/sbec-tac-currently-in-effect/19-tac-chapter-247. Interns who haven't done so already, please complete the form and send it to the Certification Officer to be placed in your permanent file.

DISPOSITION STATEMENT

Dispositions are an important component of teacher preparation. According to the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), dispositions are defined as the "professional attitudes, values, and beliefs demonstrated through both verbal and nonverbal behaviors as educators interact with students, families, colleagues, and communities. These positive behaviors support student learning and development." ACP Interns at Nelson University are expected to develop and practice these attitudes, values, and beliefs throughout their preparation and internship as professional educators.

Professional Dispositions for Teaching

- 1. Exhibit sound and professional judgment by the following established field supervisor or public school policies when interacting with peers, students, parents, or members of the community.
- 2. Maintain confidentiality of student records, correspondence, and conversations.
- 3. Use emotional and social self-control and self-determination during personal interactions.
- 4. Demonstrate professional appearance by following Nelson University dress code and/or school campus dress code as well as appropriate hygiene.
- 5. Maintain an appropriate professional teacher-student and teacher-parent relationship.
- 6. Demonstrate positive attitudes toward the profession, students, parents, other educators, etc.
- 7. Demonstrate ethical behavior as defined by the Texas Educator Code of Ethics.
- 8. Exhibit a code of conduct that includes honesty, integrity, and cooperation related to tests, assignments, and interactions with Nelson University professors.
- 9. Collaborate with peers, students, faculty, parents, and administration to seek solutions to problems.
- 10. Demonstrate an ability to work with diverse individuals.
- 11. Exhibit qualities of a lifelong learner through academic preparedness, professional development opportunity participation, and course requirement completion.
- 12. Exhibits competence and professionalism in oral, written, and electronic communications.

Internship Placement

The ACP candidate is responsible for interviewing and securing a job placement with a TEA accredited school. Completion and submission of the Internship Checklist (see Appendix) is required at the start of the internship academic year. Some items must be submitted prior to the start of the internship.

The ACP candidate is also responsible for procuring a campus Mentor Teacher (MT) in collaboration with the ISD and Nelson University Education Department. The MT must be willing to:

- complete mentor training no later than the first three weeks of placement;
- be currently certified in the certification category in which the ACP candidate is seeking certification;
- have three or more years of experience;
- and is willing to guide, assist, and support the candidate during the internship.

The Education Department will obtain necessary paperwork once the ACP candidate has provided information to complete this step.

Candidates with a probationary certification in two subject areas will be required to procure a MT for each subject. The two categories cannot be taught concurrently during the same period of the school day. Contact the Certification Officer or Director of Teacher Education for more information about dual certification.

An internship experience shall not take place in a setting where the candidate:

- (1) has an administrative role over the mentor, cooperating teacher, site supervisor, or host teacher; or
- (2) is related to the field supervisor, mentor, cooperating teacher, site supervisor, or host teacher by blood (consanguinity) within the third degree or by marriage (affinity) within the second degree.

Internship Requirements for All Parties

First Day of School Checklist (see Appendix). The internship officially starts on the first day of the ISDs calendar with students.
ACP Intern Orientation: This will be provided by Nelson University in early August or within the first three weeks of the intern's school year.
Campus Mentor Teacher Training: The purpose of the campus mentor teacher is to serve as a facilitator of learning for the teacher intern. Training for the MT will be provided by the Nelson University Education Department and by the Nelson University appointed field supervisor. This training is delivered face-to-face either virtually or in person.
Internship Action Plan (one for each internship semester—see appendix: An action plan shall be completed <i>each semester</i> and submitted to Blackboard by the intern. Interns will meet with MT and FS prior to the submission of the action plan. Action plans will identify the intern's professional goals, review current performance, and establish a plan for

ppendix as well as Blackboard.	
nternship Reflections: Interns shall complete and submit a performance reflection three 3) times per semester. Reflection forms (see appendix) shall be submitted to Blackboard in the appropriate Internship course. Although reflections can be personal, Interns should discuss major concerns with the mentor teacher and/or the field supervisor. A timeline is provided in the appendix as well as in the Internship course on Blackboard for these eflections.	ł
nternship Assessments:	
 Mentor Teacher Observations- The MT will observe and complete a formative assessment at least once a semester and submit a signed copy to the field supervisor. If the Intern did not make acceptable progress, the MT will notify the field supervisor and also conduct a second formative assessment. Field Supervisor Evaluations- A minimum of five (5) observations are required throughout the course of the academic year. Three in the fall semester and two in the spring semester. However, if the Intern is not making acceptable progress, the field supervisor shall notify the Nelson University Director of Teacher Education and conduct additional observations as needed. 	
 Principal/Designee Observations- Takes place as determined by the campus and district policy. These observations are only shared with the ACP Intern. 	
Completion: The ACP Internship is completed at the end of the ISD's Academic school	
alendar year. In addition to the one-year internship, the following must be completed:	
Proficiency Statement from the FS and either the MT or Campus Principal	
☐ Credit for Internship I and Internship II with a score of 70% or higher in each course	e

ACP Intern Expectations

The ACP intern is employed by a school district and considered a first-year teacher. Interns are expected to adhere to all Texas Teacher Standards as indicated in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC).

§228.73(a) requires the Nelson University Teacher Education Program (Educator Preparation Program – EPP) to:

- verify that a candidate participating in an internship hold an active intern or probationary certificate that is effective on or before the assignment start date of the internship and is valid for the entire duration of the internship.
- be for a minimum of one full school year for the classroom teacher assignment or assignments that match the certification category or categories for which the candidate is prepared

Teacher interns are expected to also:

Adhere to all policies, procedures, and expectations set forth by the school district and principal.
Arrive at school in a timely manner and stay until all plans for the next day are complete. At a minimum, you are expected to be at school for the entire contract day.
Dress, act, and speak in a professional manner. Teacher Interns are expected to present a professional appearance that reflects the guidelines established by the school district in which they are employed. Teacher interns should exhibit professionalism in dress, grooming, attitude, actions, and speech at all times. Professionalism is part of your professional identity and Christian witness.
Adopt an attitude of learner and use constructive criticism and feedback to improve teaching and learning experiences.
Connect with the assigned campus mentor weekly in the fall and bi-weekly in the spring, ask questions, and use feedback.
Complete lesson plans as instructed by the field supervisor and/or campus principal.
Observe the MT a minimum of two (2) times a semester. This can be done during your planning period if the MT has a class.
Complete all assignments in Internship I and Internship II on Blackboard in a timely manner. You must score a 70% or higher in these two courses as part of the internship requirement.

Attendance

All ACP interns are expected to adhere to the policies and procedures regarding attendance as indicated in the ISD's Teacher Handbook provided by the school district in which employed. §228.73(c), allows for up to 30 school days less than the required minimum for parental leave, military leave, illness, or bereavement leave. This must be documented and communicated with the campus principal, MT and FS. All paperwork must be signed and turned in to the FS. Excessive

absences may result in not receiving internship credit and/or removal from the alternative certification program.

Confidentiality

According to FERPA guidelines, confidentiality regarding students' information and information about parents of students must be maintained. The teacher intern is expected to know the ISD's campus policy on the use of confidential information that may be obtained through student records, conversations, or other sources. There are often parents and community members volunteering in the schools. Conversations in the workroom, hallways, and the lounge must be professional.

Campus Mentor Teacher (MT)

The campus mentor teacher serves as an on-site facilitator of learning for the ACP intern. Mentors help guide ACP interns through the day-to-day process of teaching and learning. Mentors are partners. The ACP intern will observe the mentor teacher's classroom twice a semester.

Candidates with a probationary certification in two subject areas will have a MT in each subject. Each MT will observe the Intern according to the schedule listed in this handbook. Contact the Certification Officer for more information about dual certification.

Mentor Qualifications and Responsibilities.

in the intern's permanent file.

- at least three creditable years of teaching experience, as defined in Chapter 153,
 Subchapter CC, Part II of §228.97;
- employed as a classroom teacher on the intern's campus
- accomplishment as an educator as shown by student learning;
- not assigned to the candidate as a cooperating teacher, field supervisor, or site supervisor;
- trained as a mentor by the educator preparation program (EPP) or the campus or district, including training in how to coach and mentor teacher candidates, during the twelve weeks before or three weeks after the candidate's assignment start date; and
- valid certification in the certification category in which the internship candidate is seeking certification.

Duties of a Mentor:

- guide, assist, and support the candidate throughout the entirety of the internship in areas such as lesson preparation, classroom management, instruction, assessment, working with parents, obtaining materials, and district policies; and
- report the candidate's progress to the candidate's field supervisor.

r training will be provided by the Nelson University Teacher Education Department and the University appointed field supervisor. Mentors are expected to:
Attend the Nelson University Mentor Training. This training is offered face-to-face. Those not local will be provided a zoom link.
Conduct a pre-conference meeting with the ACP intern prior to the observation.
Observe the intern a minimum of one time per semester. This observation should be done
about 2 months after the internship starts and again in February.
Provide oral and written feedback to the ACP intern on each observation.
Connect with the field supervisor to share concerns and victories at least once a month.
Be accessible and meet with the ACP intern once a week in the first semester and then at
least bi-weekly in the second semester to discuss school procedures and policies as well as classroom management and teaching strategies. A communication log is provided in the appendix section. This log shall be given to the FS for submission of paperwork to be placed

Notify the field supervisor of unacceptable behavior such as, but not limited to, habitually
arriving late, sub-par lessons, failure to improve, or anything else listed in the Dismissal
Policy of this Handbook.

The MT pre-conference form and the observation form are located in the appendix. MTs also received these forms from the Nelson University Teacher Education Certification Officer through email.

University Field Supervisor

The Nelson University Teacher Education office in conjunction with the intern will assign each ACP intern a qualified field supervisor. The field supervisor is the liaison between the school district and the university and is designed to create the best possible internship experience. Field supervisors are certified educators who have had extensive experience in observing, mentoring, training, and teaching.

Qualifications:

- hold a current certification in which supervision is provided or, at a minimum, a master's
 degree in the academic area or field related to the certification area being supervised and
 compliance with continuing professional education requirements in Chapter 232,
 Subchapter A, Certificate Renewal and Continuing Professional Education Requirements;
- accomplishment as an educator as shown by student learning;
- not employed by the same school where the candidate being supervised is completing his
 or her clinical teaching, internship, or practicum;
- not assigned to the candidate as a mentor, cooperating teacher, or site supervisor;
- three years of creditable experience, as defined by Chapter 153, Subchapter CC, of §228.101 (relating to Commissioner's Rules on Creditable Years of Service), in the class in which supervision is provided;
- trained annually by the EPP (Nelson University Teacher Education); and
- has completed the Texas Education Agency (TEA)-approved training for field supervisors supporting teacher candidates, <u>or</u> is a currently certified Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS) appraiser.

Duties of a Field Supervisor:

- Contact the assigned candidate within the first three weeks after the assignment start date for a candidate seeking certification as a classroom teacher. Contact may be made by telephone, email, or other electronic communication.
- The field supervisor shall verify the candidate's internship placement within the first three
 weeks of the candidate's internship assignment and shall notify the EPP if the internship
 placement does not meet the requirements of the EPP, including assignment of a qualified
 mentor.
- Conduct five (5) formal evaluations that are 45 minutes or more in duration. (Evaluation form provided in the Appendix). Three (3) in the first semester (Internship I) and two (2) in the second semester (Internship II). However, additional evaluations can be conducted as needed.
 - Note: one evaluation shall be conducted with the campus principal. It is recommended, if possible, that this be evaluation number 3 or 4.

Interns with two subject area certifications will have a qualified FS for each certification subject. Contact the Teacher Education Department for more information.

• Provide the intern with written feedback provided during the post-conference with feedback on targeted skills. This <u>must be within the first four weeks</u> of all internship

- assignments <u>BUT on or after September 1</u>. The first formal observation must be conducted in-person. See FS Timeline and Dates to Remember document.
- Complete two (2) informal observations that are 15 minutes or more in duration per semester with post-conference discussion informed by the areas identified for improvement. NOTE: The first informal observation must occur within the first six weeks of the internship but after the first formal evaluation. Provide the intern with written feedback provided during the post-conference with feedback on targeted skills (See Appendix for Informal Observation Form)
- Provide ongoing coaching as appropriate and needed
- Provide the MT and Principal copies of the formal evaluations of the intern.
- Notify the campus principal and Director of Teacher Education of conduct listed in the Dismissal Policy of this Handbook.
- Notify the Director of Teacher Education of Intern Termination of Contract from the ISD.
- Collect and submit all required documentation with required signatures to the Nelson University Teacher Education Department.

Candidates with a probationary certification in two subject areas will be required to have at least two observations *in each subject* during the first semester and at least one observation in each subject during the second semester. The two categories cannot be taught concurrently during the same period of the school day.

Contact the Certification Officer or Director of Teacher Education if you have any concerns with the Intern's placement.

Communication

Provide multiple means for communication with the intern (email, phone, text message) and offer guidelines for contact. Pre- and post- evaluation conferences provide situations for more significant discussions to occur.

- Respond to the intern's communications within two school/business days. A
 communication log is provided in the appendix. This log shall be submitted with final
 paperwork to be placed in the intern's permanent file.
- Contact the MT within the first two weeks of the assignment to clarify MT responsibilities, information, answer questions, and share contact information. Maintain contact with the MT on the growth of the intern. If any issues arise, document the steps the MT or principal has taken to correct problems of the intern. If issues persist, discuss action steps with the intern in order to help him or her be successful.
- At times, the field supervisor may have to place an intern on a growth plan. If this occurs, notify the Nelson University Director of Teacher Education to set up a meeting between the intern, field supervisor, and/or department chair. See Growth Plan section of this handbook for more information.

Statement of Proficiency

The goal of clinical teaching is to be first-day ready. This means that by the end of clinical teaching, the candidate shows proficiency and is ready to be a first-year teacher. If the field supervisor cannot state that the clinical teacher is proficient, the FS must have documentation of communication with the clinical teacher and CT throughout the placement with evidence of failure to meeting program requirements, professionalism, instruction, etc.

Dismissal Policy

In some instances, the ACP intern may be dismissed from the internship. During the internship, the field supervisor, mentor teacher, and campus principal will work with the intern to change his or her deficiencies and remediate the internship experience. Although not an exhaustive list, appropriate documentation in the following areas could lead to automatic dismissal:

Unprofessional conduct.
Inappropriate relationship with students and/or district employees.
Poor interpersonal relationships.
Lack of organizational and planning skills.
Poor communication (oral and/or written) skills.
Poor use of appropriate teaching strategies.
Poor attendance.
Excessive tardiness.
Unacceptable completion of minimum requirements.
Unauthorized release or discussion of confidential records.
Unprofessional appearance and/or inappropriate hygiene.
Criminal charges.

If the intern leaves the internship assignment for the reasons identified below, the EPP, MT and or campus principal, and the Intern must inform each other *within one calendar week* of the intern's last day in the internship. Reasons include:

- The candidate resigns or is terminated by the school or district;
- The candidate is discharged or is released from the EPP; or
- The candidate withdraws from the EPP.

Please note that the principal and independent school district reserve the right to dismiss or fire interns as they deem necessary as all interns are employed by the school district and must follow all district policies. Nelson University Teacher Education ACP interns who are terminated from the independent school district prior to completing the ACP internship will not receive credit for the internship course.

Candidates who withdraw or are withdrawn or dismissed from an internship assignment must be reviewed by the Teacher Education Committee prior to consideration for an additional assignment. Candidates withdrawn or dismissed from internship will be reviewed and considered for a second year probationary certificate the following school year. However, two unsuccessful internship placements will result in removal from the Nelson University Teacher Education program. There is no appeal process when students are immediately dismissed from the alternative certification program.

Procedures to be followed after a dismissal from the ACP internship are as follows:

1. A meeting with the field supervisor and Nelson University Director of Teacher Education will be held to discuss the serious concerns. Documentation is shared and all

voices are heard. The mentor teacher may be present at this meeting.

2. A follow-up letter will be sent to the ACP intern from the Nelson University Director of Teacher Education outlining the on-campus meeting and next steps for the ACP intern.

Nelson University Teacher Education Post-script:

A career educator will impact hundreds of students in very important and lingering ways. Nelson University Teacher Education is committed to certifying competent and skilled educators of high integrity. The reputation of Nelson University Teacher Education rests upon the performance of our graduates.

Student Appeal Process

There is <u>no appeal to the dismissal of a student from the ACP internship</u>, only removal from the Teacher Education Program. ACP interns who have been removed from the Teacher Education Program, have seven (7) business days from the date of the dismissal letter and/or email. The candidate's written appeal letter should be sent to the Nelson University Director of Teacher Education who chairs the committee. The Nelson University Teacher Education committee has the final decision regarding the status of program candidates. The complaint policy is posted on the Nelson University Teacher Education website.

Transfer to another EPP

There might be a time when the candidate wants to transfer to another Education Preparation Program (EPP). The candidate must be in **good standing** with the Nelson University Teacher Education Program. Good standing means the candidate has:

- No outstanding financial responsibility due to Nelson University
- No poor conduct review or pending review
- Not been removed from Internship

Key Terms and Definitions

Alternative Certification Program (ACP)

A nontraditional route to teacher certification that allows individuals with a bachelor's degree to teach while completing certification requirements. ACPs are offered by universities, school districts, education service centers, community colleges, or private entities approved by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

The Nelson University ACP requires candidates to hold a bachelor's degree, pass required content exams, complete coursework, and secure a year-long paid internship in a TEA-accredited school.

Campus Mentor Teacher (MT)

A certified, experienced teacher (minimum three years of experience) assigned to guide and support the ACP intern during their internship. The MT must be certified in the same category as the intern's target certification and complete mentor training.

At Nelson University, the MT conducts at least one observation per semester, provides feedback, and collaborates with the field supervisor to support the intern's growth.

Clinical Teaching

An unpaid, supervised teaching experience, typically lasting one semester (minimum 14 weeks or 490 hours), where candidates work under a certified classroom teacher to gain practical experience.

Nelson University focuses on the paid internship model but acknowledges Post-Bac clinical teaching as an alternative in some ACPs.

Criminal Background Check

A mandatory evaluation of a candidate's criminal history required by TEA before employment as an educator or issuance of a teaching certificate. Candidates may request a Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation (PCHE) to assess eligibility.

Dismissal Policy

Guidelines outlining reasons for an intern's removal from the ACP, including unprofessional conduct, poor attendance, inappropriate relationships, or failure to meet program requirements. Nelson University specifies procedures for dismissal, including a meeting with the Director of Teacher Education and no appeal process for internship dismissal.

Educator Preparation Program (EPP)

A TEA-approved program, such as Nelson University's Teacher Education Program, designed to prepare candidates for teacher certification through coursework, training, and clinical experiences like internships or student teaching.

EPPs verify candidate eligibility, provide mentorship, and recommend candidates for certification upon completion of requirements.

Field Supervisor (FS)

A certified educator assigned by the EPP to oversee, mentor, and evaluate the ACP intern during their internship. The FS conducts a minimum of five formal observations (three in fall, two in

spring) and provides written feedback.

Nelson University's FS verifies internship placement, ensures compliance with TEA requirements, and notifies the EPP of any issues, such as those warranting a growth plan or dismissal.

Growth Plan

A remediation plan initiated by the field supervisor for interns not meeting performance expectations, outlining specific actions and professional development to address deficiencies. The field supervisor collaborates with the Director of Teacher Education to implement and monitor the growth plan.

Intern Certificate

A one-year temporary certificate issued to candidates enrolled in an EPP, allowing them to teach as the teacher of record during their internship after passing required content exams. Candidates must apply for this certificate online through TEA and undergo a criminal background check.

Internship

A supervised, year-long teaching experience in a TEA-accredited school where the candidate serves as the teacher of record, earning a salary while completing certification requirements. The internship must align with the certification category sought and requires a valid intern or probationary certificate.

Nelson University's internship involves guidance from a campus mentor teacher and a university field supervisor, with a minimum of five formal observations and completion of Internship I and II courses.

Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) Exam

A TEXES exam (Texas Examinations of Educator Standards) that assesses a candidate's knowledge of teaching practices, professionalism, and ethical responsibilities required for certification. Nelson University requires candidates to pass the PPR exam as part of the certification process.

Pre-Admission Content Test (PACT)

A state-required exam that candidates may need to pass to demonstrate content knowledge for their certification area before admission to an ACP, especially if their GPA is below 2.5 or they lack sufficient coursework in the subject area.

Nelson University requires candidates to pass content exams, such as the PACT, as part of the admission process if their GPA is under 3.0 or if their official degree does not meet the minimum number of hours in the certification field seeking.

Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation (PCHE)

A voluntary, non-binding evaluation by TEA to assess a candidate's eligibility for certification based on their criminal history, available for a \$50 fee.

Probationary Certificate

A temporary teaching certificate, valid for one year, issued to ACP candidates who have met eligibility requirements (e.g., passed content exams, enrolled in an EPP) to serve as a teacher of record during their internship. It may be extended for up to two additional years if requirements

are not completed.

Nelson University verifies that interns hold an active probationary certificate before the internship begins.

Probationary Certificate Extension

An extension of up to two additional years for a probationary certificate if the candidate does not complete all requirements within the initial year, subject to EPP approval.

Nelson University may recommend an extension if the intern shows satisfactory progress.

Statement of Proficiency

A formal acknowledgment from the field supervisor and either the mentor teacher or campus principal that the intern has demonstrated readiness to be a first-year teacher by the end of the internship.

This statement is required for internship completion and certification recommendation.

Teacher of Record

The primary teacher responsible for instruction in a classroom during the internship, typically under a probationary or intern certificate.

Nelson University interns serve as teachers of record during their paid internship, supported by mentors and supervisors.

Texas Educator Code of Ethics

A set of standards outlined in TAC §247.2 that governs the professional conduct of Texas educators, emphasizing ethical behavior, integrity, honesty, and respect toward students, colleagues, and the community.

Nelson University requires interns to adhere to the Code of Ethics and submit a signed acknowledgment to the Certification Officer.

Texas Teacher Standards

Standards outlined in TAC §149.1001 that define the knowledge, skills, and abilities expected of Texas educators, including instructional planning, classroom management, and professional responsibilities.

Interns are expected to adhere to these standards during their internship, as verified by observations and evaluations.

TEXES (Texas Examinations of Educator Standards)

State-required exams assessing content knowledge and pedagogical skills for certification, including content-specific tests and the PPR exam.

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FS Communication Log with Intern

FS Communication Log with MT

Growth Plan

Texas Educator Code of Ethics and Standard Practices

Nelson University Lesson Plan Template

FS Pre-Conference Form

FS Evaluation of the Intern

FS Post-Conference Form

FS Informal Observation and Post-Conference Communication Form

Field Supervisor Responsibility Checklist

Training Requirements and Signature Form

Nelson University Teacher Education Dismissal from Internship

Acknowledgement of Teacher Internship Handbook

NOTE: All forms are provided to the respective individuals through email before the start of the Internship. Please use forms provided through email for best results.

Internship Checklist

All documents listed below are required to be completed.

Complete and submit the Statement of Eligibility for Internship Form to the Certification Officer or Director of Teacher Education.				
Register for the Teaching Internship I or II class at Nelson University.				
	ernship Action Plan (Complete with Mentor, submit on Blackboard, and to Field visor (FS) no later than the third week of Internship I semester).			
	internship Action Plan (Complete with Mentor, submit on Blackboard, and to FS no han the third week of Internship II semester.			
	reflection forms (located and submitted on Blackboard).			
Th	e timeline for Internship I is as follows:			
	First reflection submitted on or before September 1.			
	Fall internship action plan submitted within the first three weeks of the semester.			
	Second reflection submitted between October 4 and November 1.			
	Third reflection submitted between November 15 and December 1.			
Th	e timeline for Internship II is as follows:			
	First reflection submitted on or before January 31.			
	Spring action plan submitted within the first three weeks of the semester.			
	Second reflection submitted between February 14 and March 14.			
	Third reflection submitted between April 1 and April 22.			
Submi	t the following to your field supervisor:			
	ISD Calendar for upcoming school year.			
	Teaching schedule, class times, subjects, conference time, etc.			
	List of all extra duties.			
	Arrival and departure time.			
	Contact information for principal and campus mentor.			
	A signed copy of the handbook acknowledgement agreement found in the			
	Appendix.			



Statement of Eligibility for Internship - Teacher

THIS IS NEITHER A CERTIFICATE NOR A PERMIT. This document verifies that the teacher candidate has been admitted to an approved educator preparation program (EPP) leading to certification in Texas. This form must be returned to the EPP. The preparation program will then recommend the teacher candidate for an intern or probationary certificate, which must be issued to provide the employing school district assignment coverage during the internal internship year.

ld:		Phone: Grade Levels:	:
ld:			
	Date	Admitted to EPP:	
		EPP Phone:	
s Completed the Follo	owing Requirements	s for Texas Teacher Co	ertification:
# of Required Field-	Passed Content /	Passed Pedagogy and	
Hours Completed prior	Supplemental Exam(s)	Responsibilities Exam	
to internship (min. 30	• •	·	Probationary Probationary
required)		Date:	Extension
•		•	1
ram Director or Design	ee Printed Name/Si	gnature/Date	
To be completed b	y the Employing Sc	hool District	
		County/District	. #
		County/District	
	Compus Dringing	Namai	
tent Certificate Require	ed for Placement:		
	First Instructional D	ate with Students:	
or Certification:		0	Grade Level:
or Name:		TEA#	
ous or district person didate's last day in the	nel, and the candida e assignment; and vation request with	ate must inform each o	other within one
	s Completed the Folia # of Required Field- Based Experience Hours Completed prior to internship (min. 30 required) ram Director or Design To be completed be tent Certificate Require or Certification: or Name: out or district person didate's last day in the tent certificate deacti	s Completed the Following Requirement: # of Required Field- Based Experience Hours Completed prior to internship (min. 30 required) To be completed by the Employing So Campus Principal tent Certificate Required for Placement: First Instructional D or Certification: or Name: iii) e internship assignment for any of the recous or district personnel, and the candidate the certificate deactivation request with	# of Required Field-Based Experience Hours Completed prior to internship (min. 30 required) To be completed by the Employing School District Campus Principal Name:

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Prior to the First Day of School Checklist

Identify campus emergency procedures.		
Read district handbooks for teachers and students.		
Meet with appropriate campus personnel to locate instructional resources.		
Arrange your room:		room:
	Desks	
	Elemei	ntary centers
	Flexibl	e seating arrangements
	Bulleti	n Boards
	Calend	ar
	Schedu	ıles
	Object	ives
Revise the Classroom Management Plan developed from Nelson University classes and		
discuss it with the mentor teacher and field supervisor. Plan components include, but are not limited to, the following:		
		_
introducing expectations, rules, and consequences.		
introducing yourself to your class.		
		ucing yourself and important expectations to parents. This could be in the fan ewsletter.
		r getting to know your students.
	•	lures for:
_	•	Greeting students at the door
		Beginning class
		Organizing and handing out materials & supplies
		Getting students attention
		Quieting the class
		What to do when students finish work
		Bathroom/drinks
		Other recommendations from mentor and/or field supervisor

ACP Intern Reflection Form

Submit on Blackboard by assigned dates as previously st provided on Blackboard in the Internship courses.	tated in this handbook. This form is
Name:	Date:
1. Highlights of my time in the classroom so far:	
2. I have discoveredand as a result, I intend to(this teachers in the classroom or from your classroom exper	
3. Challenges: (personal concerns, pressures, ineffective strategies, time management problems, frustrations, etc.)	
4. Short Term Goals for my Growth:	
5. Self-Evaluation: (record my growth, reactions and/or incorporation of new ideas, goals I met, etc.)	r evaluation of what I observed or did,
6. Discussions with Field Supervisor:	
7. Mentor Teacher Suggestions for Improvement:	

Fall Internship Action Plan

The purpose of this action plan is to set goals for professional growth as a teacher. This plan will be used by the intern, the mentor and the field supervisor to help guide the semester. Plans should be initially completed by the intern and submitted both on Blackboard and to the field supervisor. The field supervisor and the intern should discuss the plan and review as needed throughout the course of the internship.

This form is provided on Blackboard, but Interns shall *submit a signed copy* to be maintained in the student's permanent file.

1. What are the intern's professional goals for the semester?
2. What actions will the intern take to successfully reach the professional goals?
3. What actions will the mentor/field supervisor take to help the intern successfully reach the identified professional goals?
4. Date Reviewed: By Mentor Teacher: By Field Supervisor:
5. Comments:
Intern Signature:
Mentor Signature:
Field Supervisor Signature:

Spring Internship Action Plan

The purpose of this action plan is to review the goals set during the fall semester and to monitor and adjust the professional goals as needed. This plan will be used by the intern, the mentor, and the field supervisor to help guide the semester. Plans should be initially completed by the intern and submitted both on Blackboard and to the field supervisor. The field supervisor and the intern should discuss the plan and review as needed throughout the course of the internship.

1.	Which of the goals from the Fall Action Plan need to be continued as professional goals for the spring?
2.	What additional actions should be in place to successfully reach the professional goals?
3.	What actions will the mentor/field supervisor take to help the intern successfully reach the identified professional goals?
4.	Explain an area of weakness that the intern will need to focus on this semester that's not part of the professional goals.
6.	Date Reviewed:
	By Mentor Teachers: By Field Supervisor:
7.	Comments:
Intern	Signature:
Mento	or Signature:
Field S	upervisor Signature:



MT Pre-Conference Form with Intern

The purpose of the pre-conference is for the ACP teacher and mentor teacher to collaborate with the goal of discussing an upcoming lesson. This discussion will focus on the lesson objective and student outcomes, materials needed, instructional and classroom management strategies, differentiation and assessment techniques. (T-Tess Domain 1)

Intern Teacher:		Mentor Teacher:
Date:		Time:
	☐ Fall	☐ Spring

Planning Domain

- Designs clear, well organized, sequential lessons that reflect best practice, align with standards and are appropriate for diverse learners
- Uses formal and informal methods to measure student progress, then manages and analyzes student data to inform instruction
- Ensures high levels of learning, social-emotional development and achievement for all students through knowledge of students and proven practices
- Plans engaging, flexible lessons that encourage higher-order thinking, persistence, and achievement

The following questions may be used to guide discussion during the pre-observation conference.

What objectives will be addressed in the lesson? What do you expect students to know and be able to do after the lesson? Where is this lesson in the context of your unit plan? (i.e. introduction, review, etc.) What are the prerequisite skills that the students have to know in order to be successful in this lesson? Briefly describe the varied learning needs of students in this class, including those with disabilities and ELLs, and how you plan and prepare to meet their needs. What differentiation techniques will you need to implement to address the variety of learning styles? Are there any particular grouping structures in place? If so, how will you hold students accountable for group work? How are you going to measure student mastery of the lesson objective? What steps will you take throughout your lesson? How will you engage students in their learning? What will you be doing? What are your plans for lesson closure and reflection? What challenges do you foresee? Is there anything else you would like to discuss before the observation?

Intern Signature:			
Mentor Teacher Signature:			
An interactive form is provided to the MT through email.			

Conversation with ACP Intern & MT Suggestions:

Mentor Evaluation of Intern

*To be completed when the MT is evaluating the intern. Mentors will observe the ACP intern a minimum of once a semester but can submit additional evaluations as needed for intern success. *A post-conference will follow the observation for insights to be discussed.* Submit a signed copy to the field supervisor.

MT:	Date/1	Гіте:
Intern:	Grade,	/Subject:
Describe the lesson observed. Sp classroom management strategie		ctional practices, assessments, or
Identify strengths of the lesson. (based on the T-TESS Rubi	ric)
What areas were confusing or ne	ed to be revisited/elabor	ated upon?
<u>Post-Conference:</u> Summarize the Interns response	to their lesson and feedb	ack from MT:
List suggestions for Intern improv	/ement.	
Date Reviewed:	_ Intern initials:	MT initials:
An interactive form is provided to th	e MT through email.	

FS Communication Log with <u>Intern</u>

ACP Intern:		FS:
	☐ Fall	☐ Spring
	(Bo	oxes will expand with text.)
DATE	Type of Interaction (F2F, Phone, Email, ect)	Interaction/Discussion Overview *Summary of discussion and any next steps for the ACP Intern with due dates
	This form is prov	ed in with the Intern's paperwork at the end of each semester. vided to the FS in their welcoming email. ation Log with <u>Mentor Teacher</u>
ACP Intern:		MT:
FS:		
Communicatio	on between the MT and FS	is required <u>at least once a month</u> .
	(Вс	oxes will expand with text.)
DATE	Type of Interaction (F2F, Phone, Email, ect)	Interaction/Discussion Overview *Summary of discussion and any next steps for the ACP Intern with due dates

^{**}Communication logs should be turned in with the Intern's paperwork at the end of each semester.

This form is provided to the FS in their welcoming email.

Nelson University Teacher Growth Plan

ACP Intern Date Initiated	
Campus	
Field Supervisor	
Mentor Teacher	
Area(s) of	Reasons for Needed Improvement
Need:	

Plan for Improvement: List goals to address the area(s) of need, activities to support improvement in the area(s), how the improvement will be measured, and a timeline for achieving improvement. **SMART Goals:** Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-based.

Goals* "By (ID a specific time period) I will (ID how the practice will improve) and in so doing, the intern will (ID how the students will benefit).	Activities/Resources Outline the plan to show growth; list any support or resources needed.	Measurement How to determine whether goal was successful.	Review Checkpoint to determine improvement.

ly field supervisor and I l	nave discussed this plar	1.	
ntern Signature		Date	
Field Supervisor Signature	Date		
Director of Teacher Ed or I	Date		
Recommendation After Ro	eview:		

Texas Educator Code of Ethics and Standard Practices RULE 247.2

Enforceable Standards.

- (1) Professional Ethical Conduct, Practices and Performance.
 - (A) Standard 1.1. The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly engage in deceptive practices regarding official policies of the school district, educational institution, educator preparation program, the Texas Education Agency, or the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) and its certification process.
 - (B) Standard 1.2. The educator shall not knowingly misappropriate, divert, or use monies, personnel, property, or equipment committed to his or her charge for personal gain or advantage.
 - (C) Standard 1.3. The educator shall not submit fraudulent requests for reimbursement, expenses, or pay.
 - (D) Standard 1.4. The educator shall not use institutional or professional privileges for personal or partisan advantage.
 - (E) Standard 1.5. The educator shall neither accept nor offer gratuities, gifts, or favors that impair professional judgment or to obtain special advantage. This standard shall not restrict the acceptance of gifts or tokens offered and accepted openly from students, parents of students, or other persons or organizations in recognition or appreciation of service.
 - (F) Standard 1.6. The educator shall not falsify records, or direct or coerce others to do so.
 - (G) Standard 1.7. The educator shall comply with state regulations, written local school board policies, and other state and federal laws.
 - (H) Standard 1.8. The educator shall apply for, accept, offer, or assign a position or a responsibility on the basis of professional qualifications.
 - (I) Standard 1.9. The educator shall not make threats of violence against school district employees, school board members, students, or parents of students.
 - (J) Standard 1.10. The educator shall be of good moral character and be worthy to instruct or supervise the youth of this state.
 - (K) Standard 1.11. The educator shall not intentionally or knowingly misrepresent his or her employment history, criminal history, and/or disciplinary record when applying for subsequent employment.
 - (L) Standard 1.12. The educator shall refrain from the illegal use or distribution of controlled substances and/or abuse of prescription drugs and toxic inhalants.
 - (M) Standard 1.13. The educator shall not consume alcoholic beverages on school property or during school activities when students are present.
- (2) Ethical Conduct Toward Professional Colleagues.
 - (A) Standard 2.1. The educator shall not reveal confidential health or personnel information concerning colleagues unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law.
 - (B) Standard 2.2. The educator shall not harm others by knowingly making false statements about a colleague or the school system.
 - (C) Standard 2.3. The educator shall adhere to written local school board policies and state and federal laws regarding the hiring, evaluation, and dismissal of personnel.

- (D) Standard 2.4. The educator shall not interfere with a colleague's exercise of political, professional, or citizenship rights and responsibilities.
- (E) Standard 2.5. The educator shall not discriminate against or coerce a colleague on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, disability, family status, or sexual orientation.
- (F) Standard 2.6. The educator shall not use coercive means or promise of special treatment in order to influence professional decisions or colleagues.
- (G) Standard 2.7. The educator shall not retaliate against any individual who has filed a complaint with the SBEC or who provides information for a disciplinary investigation or proceeding under this chapter.
- (3) Ethical Conduct Toward Students.
 - (A) Standard 3.1. The educator shall not reveal confidential information concerning students unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law.
 - (B) Standard 3.2. The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly treat a student or minor in a manner that adversely affects or endangers the learning, physical health, mental health, or safety of the student or minor.
 - (C) Standard 3.3. The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly misrepresent facts regarding a student.
 - (D) Standard 3.4. The educator shall not exclude a student from participation in a program, deny benefits to a student, or grant an advantage to a student on the basis of race, color, gender, disability, national origin, religion, family status, or sexual orientation.
 - (E) Standard 3.5. The educator shall not intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly engage in physical mistreatment, neglect, or abuse of a student or minor.
 - (F) Standard 3.6. The educator shall not solicit or engage in sexual conduct or a romantic relationship with a student or minor.
 - (G) Standard 3.7. The educator shall not furnish alcohol or illegal/unauthorized drugs to any person under 21 years of age unless the educator is a parent or guardian of that child or knowingly allow any person under 21 years of age unless the educator is a parent or guardian of that child to consume alcohol or illegal/unauthorized drugs in the presence of the educator.
 - (H) Standard 3.8. The educator shall maintain appropriate professional educator-student relationships and boundaries based on a reasonably prudent educator standard.
 - (I) Standard 3.9. The educator shall refrain from inappropriate communication with a student or minor, including, but not limited to, electronic communication such as cell phone, text messaging, email, instant messaging, blogging, or other social network communication. Factors that may be considered in assessing whether the communication is inappropriate include, but are not limited to:
 - (i) the nature, purpose, timing, and amount of the communication;
 - (ii) the subject matter of the communication;
 - (iii) whether the communication was made openly or the educator attempted to conceal the communication;
 - (iv) whether the communication could be reasonably interpreted as soliciting sexual contact or a romantic relationship;

(v) whether the communication was sexually explicit; and

(vi) whether the communication involved discussion(s) of the physical or sexual attractiveness or the sexual history, activities, preferences, or fantasies of either the educator or the student.

I have read and agree to abide by the Educators' Code of Ethics.		
Signature	 Date	

If not already done so, please sign, date, and submit this page to the Certification Officer or Director of Teacher Education to be placed in the intern's permanent file,

Nelson Teacher Education Lesson Plan Template 2025

This lesson plan template aligns with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS), and College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) standards to support pre-service teachers in creating inclusive, effective lessons for Texas classrooms. It ensures compliance with IDEA and Section 504, emphasizing proactive planning and evidence-based practices for all students, including those with disabilities, while preparing them for post-secondary success.

Lesson Plan Information

- Teacher Name: Your Name
- Grade Level: e.g., 4th Grade, High School
- Subject: e.g., Mathematics, English Language Arts
- Lesson Title/Topic: e.g., Multiplying Fractions, Analyzing Poetry
- **Date**: e.g., MM/DD/YYYY
- **Duration**: e.g., 50 minutes, 90 minutes
- Unit: e.g., Fractions, American Literature
- Time Allocation Table:

Section	D	uration	Notes
Introduction	e.g.,	5-10 min	Engage all students, including SWD
Guided Practice	e.g.,	15-20 min	Monitor pacing for scaffolding
Independent Practice	e.g.,	10-15 min	Adjust if CCMR tasks need more time
Closure	e.g.,	5-10 min	Ensure accessible reflection

• **Guidance**: Use the table to plan pacing. Adjust durations based on student needs, CCMR activities, or IEPs/504 Plans. Allow flexibility for deeper engagement or reteaching.

Standards

- TEKS Standards: List specific TEKS standards addressed, including standard number and description (find at tea.texas.gov).
 - o Example:
 - 4.3(B): Solve problems involving multiplication of fractions and mixed numbers.
 - ELAR.9.4(F): Analyze how literary devices contribute to meaning in poetry.
- ELPS Standards: Include relevant ELPS for English Language Learners (ELLs).
 - Example:
 - ELPS 2(C): Develop basic sight vocabulary and listening comprehension.
- CCMR Standards: Identify outcomes preparing students for college, career, or military pathways (reference TEA's CCMR Framework).
 - o Example:
 - Demonstrate problem-solving skills for real-world scenarios (e.g., budgeting with fractions).
 - Develop analytical writing skills for college coursework (e.g., poetry analysis essays).
 - Practice collaboration for workplace/military environments (e.g., group discussions).

• **Guidance**: Ensure standards are specific, measurable, and aligned with district curriculum. Use TEA resources to verify TEKS, ELPS, and CCMR alignment.

Objectives

- **Learning Objective(s)**: State what students will know/do using measurable verbs (e.g., solve, analyze). Align with TEKS and CCMR.
 - o Example:
 - Students will solve fraction multiplication problems with 80% accuracy, applying to budgeting scenarios (CCMR: career readiness).
 - Students will analyze a poem's theme using two literary devices, preparing for college writing (CCMR: college readiness).
- Language Objective(s): Specify language use for learning, especially for ELLs, aligned with ELPS.
 - o Example:
 - Students will explain problem-solving steps in writing using mathematical vocabulary (CCMR: workplace skills).
 - Students will discuss poetic devices in groups using sentence stems (CCMR: military readiness).
- **Guidance**: Use SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) and Bloom's Taxonomy verbs for rigor. Connect to CCMR post-secondary skills.

Materials and Resources

- Materials: List all needed items (e.g., technology, handouts, manipulatives, texts).
 - o Example:
 - Whiteboard, markers
 - Fraction manipulatives (bars, circles)
 - Poem anthology, graphic organizers
 - Projector for visuals
- **Technology Integration**: Specify tools supporting CCMR and accessibility, tested in advance.
 - o Example:
 - Kahoot for formative assessment
 - Google Slides for visuals
 - Texas Career Check for career exploration
 - Read&Write software for SWD
 - Naviance for college planning
 - Virtual simulations (e.g., PhET for math/science)
- **Guidance**: Prepare backups (e.g., printed handouts). Use TEA-approved tools (tea.texas.gov/resources) and assistive technologies per IEPs/504 Plans. Select CCMR-aligned tools to expose students to career/college pathways.

Proactive Instructional Planning for Inclusive Practices

- Universal Design for Learning (UDL): Use UDL principles for multiple means of engagement, representation, and action/expression.
 - o Example:
 - Provide content via visuals, audio, text (e.g., narrated fraction slides).
 - Offer response options (e.g., written/oral poetry analysis).
- **Pre-Lesson Collaboration**: Consult special education staff, review IEPs/504 Plans to incorporate accommodations/modifications.

- o Example:
 - Align fraction tasks with modified math goals.
 - Plan peer-support for poetry discussions.
- Evidence-Based Practices: Use research-supported strategies (e.g., explicit instruction, co-teaching, peer-assisted learning).
 - o Example:
 - Explicit instruction for fraction steps with repeated modeling.
 - Co-teaching for poetry analysis with scaffolds for SWD.
- **Guidance**: Ensure IDEA/Section 504 compliance. Use UDL checkpoints (cast.org) and evidence-based practices (ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc) to support all learners.

Lesson Introduction (Engage/Hook)

- **Duration**: e.g., 5-10 minutes
- **Description**: Describe an engaging, accessible activity/question connecting to prior knowledge and CCMR.
 - o Example:
 - Show a catering scenario (splitting pizza fractions) and ask, "How can we divide this for budgeting?" (CCMR: career readiness). Use visuals/audio.
 - Read a poem aloud, ask, "How does this prepare you for college?" (CCMR: college readiness). Provide large-print/braille texts.
- Connection to Objective: Link hook to lesson goals and CCMR.
 - Example:
 - Introduces fraction multiplication for career budgeting.
 - Activates literary device knowledge for college analysis.
- **Guidance**: Keep engaging, culturally relevant, and accessible (e.g., captions, simplified language). Tie to CCMR outcomes.

Guided Practice (We Do)

- **Duration**: e.g., 15-20 minutes
- **Description**: Describe collaborative tasks with teacher support, incorporating CCMR skills and evidence-based strategies (e.g., peer-assisted learning).
 - o Example:
 - Pairs solve fraction problems on whiteboards, simulating team budgeting, with teacher feedback.
 - Groups annotate poem sections with checklists, practicing college-prep analysis, cotaught with special education staff.
- Scaffolding: Detail supports (e.g., sentence starters, graphic organizers) for diverse learners.
 - o Example:
 - Fraction multiplication template (numerator × numerator / denominator × denominator).
 - Sentence stems: "This metaphor compares ____ to ____ because ____." Tactile organizers for SWD.
- **Guidance**: Bridge instruction to independent work with clear instructions and feedback. Align with objectives, CCMR, and IEPs/504 Plans.

Independent Practice (You Do)

• **Duration**: e.g., 10-15 minutes

- **Description**: Describe tasks for mastery, reflecting CCMR skills with UDL options.
 - o Example:
 - Worksheet with 5 fraction problems, including career-based scenarios, in digital/paper formats.
 - Paragraph analyzing poem's theme, citing two devices, with voice-to-text/oral options.
- Assessment: Explain evaluation method (e.g., rubric) aligned with IEPs/504 Plans.
 - o Example:
 - Worksheet graded for 80% accuracy.
 - Paragraph scored for evidence/clarity, modified per IEPs.
- **Guidance**: Ensure tasks match rigor, objectives, and CCMR goals. Provide accessible formats and collect work for assessment.

Closure

- **Duration**: e.g., 5-10 minutes
- **Description**: Describe how to reinforce learning, connect to future lessons, and highlight CCMR with accessible methods.
 - o Example:
 - Students share fraction problem solutions for career applications (written/oral).
 - Exit ticket: "Name one literary device and its college relevance" (digital/large-print).
- Connection to Objective: Link to lesson goals and放射
- **Guidance**: Use quick, accessible reviews (e.g., exit tickets) to solidify learning. Preview next lesson's CCMR connections.

Differentiation for Special Populations

- English Language Learners (ELLs):
 - o Example:
 - Bilingual word banks for math/career terms.
 - Visuals/gestures for poetry analysis.
 - Pair with fluent peers.
- Students with Disabilities (SWD):
 - Example:
 - Extended time for worksheets (per IEP).
 - Audio poems for reading difficulties.
 - Large print or speech-to-text.
- Gifted and Talented (GT):
 - Example:
 - Complex fraction problems with career scenarios.
 - Compare two poems' themes for college prep.
- Other (e.g., 504 Plans, At-Risk):
 - o Example:
 - Breaks for attention challenges.
 - One-on-one check-ins for at-risk students.
- **Guidance**: Review IEPs/504 Plans and ELPS. Use flexible grouping and evidence-based practices (e.g., peer support) to ensure access and compliance.

Modifications

- For Significant Needs: Alter expectations/delivery per IEPs/504 Plans.
 - o Example:
 - Manipulatives for dyscalculia instead of written problems.
 - Oral poetry explanations instead of writing.
- Accommodations vs. Modifications: Accommodations maintain expectations (e.g., extended time); modifications change tasks/outcomes.
- **Guidance**: Align with legal requirements, maintain dignity, and document for compliance. Consult special education staff.

Assessment and Evaluation

- Formative Assessment: Ongoing checks for CCMR skills and accessibility.
 - o Example:
 - Thumbs-up/down with response cards for SWD.
 - Group discussion responses with visual prompts.
- **Summative Assessment**: Evaluate mastery with diverse, CCMR-aligned methods (e.g., quizzes, projects, portfolios).
 - o Example:
 - Fraction quiz with career problems, modified for SWD.
 - Poetry analysis portfolio, with oral options.
 - Industry-aligned task (e.g., budgeting simulation).
- Feedback Plan: Provide timely, accessible feedback (verbal, written, audio).
 - Example:
 - Verbal feedback during practice.
 - Written/audio comments on worksheets within 48 hours.
- **Guidance**: Align assessments with objectives, TEKS, CCMR, and IEPs/504 Plans. Use varied methods (e.g., project-based learning, industry tasks) to capture progress.

Classroom Management Strategies

- Expectations: Set clear behavioral standards fostering CCMR skills and inclusivity.
 - o Example:
 - Raise hands during instruction.
 - Respect diverse abilities in group work.
- **Procedures**: Outline routines with supports for SWD.
 - o Example:
 - Bell signal for transitions with visual timers.
 - Group roles (scribe, speaker) suited to needs.
- **Positive Reinforcement**: Encourage CCMR behaviors and inclusion.
 - Example:
 - Praise collaboration (e.g., "Professional teamwork!").
 - Class points for supporting peers.
- **Guidance**: Prevent disruptions with consistent routines and proactive strategies (e.g., proximity, visual cues).

Reflection (Post-Lesson)

- What Worked Well: Reflect on successful strategies, CCMR, and inclusive practices.
- Areas for Improvement: Note challenges, especially for CCMR/inclusivity.
- Student Outcomes: Summarize data, engagement, and skill development.

- Next Steps: Plan to address gaps or extend learning.
- Guidance: Use data (e.g., exit tickets, scores) to inform future lessons and support diverse learners.

Additional Notes for Teachers

- **Teacher Preparation Requirement**: Complete all tasks you teach/require (e.g., solve fraction problems, annotate poems) to ensure clarity and feasibility.
- Lesson Pacing: Use the Time Allocation Table for flexibility. Adjust for CCMR/inclusive activities as needed.
- **Cultural Responsiveness**: Include diverse perspectives (e.g., culturally relevant texts, community-based career examples) for CCMR inclusivity.
- **CCMR Integration**: Connect to real-world applications (e.g., industry scenarios, college tasks) using TEA's CCMR resources.
- Collaboration: Work with mentors, special education, or CTE staff for alignment.
- **TEA Compliance**: Align with district guides, TEKS, ELPS, CCMR, and IDEA/Section 504. Include required components (e.g., accommodations, evidence-based practices).
- **Professionalism**: Submit plans on time, use professional language, and seek feedback.
- **Resources**: Visit tea.texas.gov, cast.org (UDL), ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc (evidence-based practices), or consult mentors.

Evaluation Cycle of the Intern

The evaluation cycle includes the following: pre-conference, evaluation, and post-conference. This PEP cycle includes important steps to help the intern navigate the complexities of teaching while using a coaching mindset.

Field supervisors will complete a minimum of five (5) formal evaluations of the teacher intern—3 in the fall and two in the spring. All assessments will follow the prescribed TEA pre-conference, evaluation, and post-conference (PEP) model. The Intern is expected to demonstrate growth throughout the course of the academic year and complete the internship with a minimum standard of proficient. Field supervisors will refer to the T-TESS Model to complete all appropriate Nelson University forms and discuss steps for growth with all interns.

All forms have been provided to the field supervisor by the Nelson University education department through email upon acceptance of the assignment. The T-TESS rubric can be found at: https://teachfortexas.org/Resource_Files/Guides/T-TESS_Rubric.pdf



Nelson University Teacher Education ACP Pre-Conference Form 2025-2026

ACP Intern Name:				Date:		
Field Supervisor Na	me:	_	Subje	ct/Grad	e Level:	:
Pre-Conference:	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	☐ 3	☐ 4	□ 5	6 (if on growth plan)

Reflective Questions for Lesson Planning and Development

(These are sent to the intern to answer as they prepare the lesson for the pre-conference and their responses can be sent back to the field supervisor before the pre-conference meeting along with the lesson plan.)

- 1. What are the specific learning objectives for this lesson?
- 2. How does this lesson align with the overall unit goals and standards?
- 3. What prior knowledge or skills do students need before this lesson?
- 4. How have you differentiated your lesson to meet diverse student needs?
- 5. What instructional strategies will you use to engage students actively?
- 6. What materials and resources will support student learning?
- 7. How will you assess student understanding during and after the lesson?
- 8. How will technology be integrated to enhance learning?
- 9. What potential challenges do you anticipate, and how will you address them?
- 10. How does this lesson promote higher-order thinking and student inquiry?

Reflective Questions for Lesson Integration

(These questions are for teachers who have pre-planned lessons given to them from the district. These questions can be sent to the intern to answer as they prepare the lesson for the pre-conference and the response can be sent back to the field supervisor before the pre-conference meeting along with the lesson plan.)

- 1. How does this lesson connect to previous lessons and future learning?
- 2. How will you incorporate cross-curricular connections?
- 3. What opportunities are there for student collaboration and communication?
- 4. How will you support students in applying learning beyond the classroom?
- 5. How have you planned for formative feedback during the lesson?

Domain 1: Lesson Planning Evaluation from Field Supervisor

Domain 1 Dimension	Proficient	Developing	Improvement Needed	Look For		
1.1 Knowledge of Content and Pedagogy				Lesson objectives align with standards and content is accurate and well understood.		
1.2 Knowledge of Students				Lesson reflects awareness of students' prior knowledge, needs, and learning styles.		
1.3 Setting Instructional Outcomes				Outcomes are clear, measurable, and appropriate for students' level.		
1.4 Knowledge of Resources				Materials and resources, including technology, are suitable and effectively planned.		
1.5 Designing Coherent Instruction				Instructional strategies are varied, engaging, and aligned with objectives. Questions indicate that several levels of thinking will be targeted.		
1.6 Designing Student Assessments				Assessment methods are appropriate for monitoring student understanding.		
1.7 Diverse Student Needs				Lesson reflects differentiation for gifted and talented, ESL students, and special education students.		
1.8 Cross-curricular connections and/or College, Career, & Military Readiness				Lesson demonstrates preparedness to connect to other disciplines, to career, college, or military.		
Field Supervisor Feedback Comments on Lesson Plan and Preparation: Suggestions for Improvement:						
Post-Conference Notes (Summary from CLT and FS)						

Signatures

By signing below, the clinical teacher and field supervisor acknowledge the discussion of the upcoming evaluation, lesson plan, and suggestions for improvement during the post-conference.			
ACP Intern (Intern):	Date:		
Field Supervisor (FS):	Date:		
If choosing to sign electronically, please select t	the appropriate box:		



Nelson University Alternative Certification Program Internship Evaluation Form from Field Supervisor

2025-2026 School Year

ACP Intern Name: F	ield Supervi	isor:		
Evaluation: 1 2 3	□ 4 □ 5	☐ 6 (if o	on growth pla	an)
Date: Start Time:	_	E	nd Time: _	
Domain 2: Instruction				
Criteria	Proficient	Developing	Improvement Needed	Comments (Evidence to support)
2.1 The teacher communicates and delivers clear, well-organized lessons aligned to learning objectives. Clearly identifying learning objective throughout the lesson.				
2.2 The teacher uses instructional strategies that engage students actively, connecting to prior knowledge and identifying appropriate content specific vocabulary.				
2.3 The teacher differentiates instruction to meet diverse student needs, including disabilities, while responding to students' learning or social/emotional needs.				
2.4 The teacher uses formative assessments to monitor student progress and adjust instruction. The teacher also incorporates probing questions to clarify and elaborate learning.				
2.5 The teacher provides feedback that guides students toward improvement.				
2.6 The teacher creates a learning environment that encourages student participation and respect and allows opportunities for students to take initiative of their own learning.				
2.7 The teacher displays enthusiasm and energy, while demonstrating appropriate and responsive pacing of instruction.				

Criteria	Proficient	Developing	Improvement Needed	Comments (Evidence to support)
3.1 The teacher establishes classroom routines that promote a positive and productive environment, demonstrating clear and efficient procedures, routines and transitions.				
3.2 The teacher manages classroom behavior effectively, using proactive and consistent strategies.				
3.3 The teacher promotes a culture of respect and rapport among all students, including disabilities.				
3.4 The teacher arranges the physical environment to support learning and accessibility for all, which allows students to participate in groups, manage supplies and equipment with limited teacher direction.				
3.5 The teacher handles conflict and/or disagreement in a calm manner.				
3.6 The teacher sets high expectations for all students, including students with disabilities.				
Comments on Domain 3: Learning Environments Overall Performance Comments (General evaluation of the intern's overall p		based on pro	ficiency stand	lards)

Comments on Domain 2: Instruction

Role

Field Supervisor

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Signature

Date

Role	Signature	Date
ACP Intern		
Principal/School Representative		

*I have read the above assessment; my signature does not imply I agree or disagree with this evaluation, only that I have received it.
If choosing to sign electronically, please select the appropriate box:



Nelson University Teacher Education Post-Conference Form for ACP Intern

2025-2026 School year

ACP Intern:	Field Supervisor:					
Post-Conference Time:	Date:					
Number:	\square 4 \square 5 \square 6 (if on growth plan)					
Purpose						
the T-TESS rubric. It includes reflective improvement suggestions. Reflective q	to facilitate reflection and professional growth for teachers based on requestions, areas of reinforcement, and areas for refinement with questions can be sent to the intern prior to the post-conference with or to be answered during the post-conference meeting.					
Reflective Questions or	n Teaching Practice					
 How do you feel the students red. What challenges did you encound. How well do you think the less those objectives are achieved now the student under the student will you make based on those and the student will you make based on those and the student will you make based on those and the student will you make based on those and the student will you make based on those and the student will you make based on those and the student will you make based on those and you try next time? What strategies did you use to they? 	derstanding during the lesson, and what adjustments did you make, or					
Reinforcement						

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Description: The Field Supervisor (FS) describes a specific teaching practice observed during the lesson that aligns with the T-TESS rubric and demonstrates proficiency or distinction. Provide evidence from the observation (e.g., student engagement, effective questioning, clear alignment with

Area of Strength (T-TESS Dimension):

objectives).

	on Student Learning: The FS explains how this strength positively influenced student s or the classroom environment.
Refineme	nt
Descript with the	Growth (T-TESS Dimension): tion: The FS identifies a specific teaching practice that could be improved to better align T-TESS rubric. Provide evidence from the observation (e.g., missed opportunities for iation, unclear instructions, or inconsistent classroom management).
for grow	tons for Improvement: The FS provides actionable strategies to address the identified area th. Examples may include: Planning Domain: Develop lesson plans with clear, measurable objectives and anticipatory sets to enhance student engagement (Dimension 1.1). Instruction Domain: Incorporate varied questioning techniques (e.g., Bloom's Taxonomy) to promote higher-order thinking (Dimension 2.3). Learning Environment Domain: Establish consistent routines to minimize disruptions and reinforce positive behavior (Dimension 3.2). Professional Practices Domain: Attend professional development workshops or collaborate with colleagues to enhance content knowledge (Dimension 4.3).
Signature	s
	v, the clinical teacher and field supervisor acknowledge the discussion of the observation, reement, and refinement areas during the post-conference.
ACP Intern:	Date:
Field Supervisor	: Date:
If choosing to sig	gn electronically, please select the appropriate box:



Informal Observation

Intern:	Field Supervisor:
Date:	Time Start/Stop:
☐ In Person (1 st is i	· ,
☐ First	☐ Second ☐ Third ☐ Fourth
	the computer, the fillable form will expand as you type. There is no need to
limit your responses.	
	nference Notes & Conversations Around Skills
In our last	
meeting, we discussed the	
following steps for	
improvement	
miprovomonimi	
Domain 1: Plannin	ıg
Dimension	Evidence (check all that apply)
1.1 Standards and	Lesson objective is clear, displayed in developmentally appropriate
Alignment	language, and standards driven.
	Lesson is well organized and sequential.
1.2 Data and	☐ Teacher consistently checks for understanding and scaffolds lesson
Assessments	accordingly.
	☐ Teacher uses data and assessments to drive instruction.
1.3 Knowledge of	Lesson is differentiated to meet the needs of all learners.
Students	☐ Teacher sets high expectations and creates challenging learning
	experiences.
	☐ Teacher connects learning to prior knowledge.
	☐ Teacher connects learning to life experience and/or meaningful context.
1.4 Activities	
	Teacher uses a variety of student engagement methods.
	Teacher provides opportunity for students to engage in critical thinking
	and problem solving
	☐ Teacher integrates technology in order to help students master lesson objective.
	☐ Teacher promotes literacy across the curriculum.
	☐ Teacher promotes interacy across the curriculum. ☐ Teacher selects appropriate grouping practices to meet learning
	objectives.

Domain 2: Instruction Dimension Evidence (check all that apply) 2.1 Achieving Expectations Teacher utilizes random calling methods and equitable practices communicating high expectations for all students. Teacher creates a mutually respectful, collaborative and safe community of learners. Teacher identifies appropriate content specific vocabulary. Teacher adjusts instruction to address common misunderstandings and preconceptions. Teacher promotes literacy across the curriculum.		
Domain 2: Instruction Dimension	General Notes &	
Dimension Evidence (check all that apply) 2.1 Achieving Expectations Teacher utilizes random calling methods and equitable practices communicating high expectations for all students. Teacher creates a mutually respectful, collaborative and safe community of learners. 2.2 Content Knowledge and Expertise Teacher identifies appropriate content specific vocabulary. Teacher adjusts instruction to address common misunderstandings and preconceptions.	Observations:	
Dimension Evidence (check all that apply) 2.1 Achieving Expectations Teacher utilizes random calling methods and equitable practices communicating high expectations for all students. Teacher creates a mutually respectful, collaborative and safe community of learners. 2.2 Content Knowledge and Expertise Teacher identifies appropriate content specific vocabulary. Teacher adjusts instruction to address common misunderstandings and preconceptions.		
Dimension Evidence (check all that apply) 2.1 Achieving Expectations Teacher utilizes random calling methods and equitable practices communicating high expectations for all students. Teacher creates a mutually respectful, collaborative and safe community of learners. 2.2 Content Knowledge and Expertise Teacher identifies appropriate content specific vocabulary. Teacher adjusts instruction to address common misunderstandings and preconceptions.		
Dimension Evidence (check all that apply) 2.1 Achieving Expectations Teacher utilizes random calling methods and equitable practices communicating high expectations for all students. Teacher creates a mutually respectful, collaborative and safe community of learners. 2.2 Content Knowledge and Expertise Teacher identifies appropriate content specific vocabulary. Teacher adjusts instruction to address common misunderstandings and preconceptions.		
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Expectations Teacher utilizes random calling methods and equitable practices communicating high expectations for all students. Teacher creates a mutually respectful, collaborative and safe community of learners. 2.2 Content Knowledge and Expertise Teacher identifies appropriate content specific vocabulary. Teacher adjusts instruction to address common misunderstandings and preconceptions.	Dimension	Evidence (check all that apply)
communicating high expectations for all students. Teacher creates a mutually respectful, collaborative and safe community of learners. 2.2 Content Knowledge and Expertise Teacher identifies appropriate content specific vocabulary. Teacher adjusts instruction to address common misunderstandings and preconceptions.	2.1 Achieving	Teacher utilizes random calling methods and equitable practices
 ☐ Teacher creates a mutually respectful, collaborative and safe community of learners. 2.2 Content Knowledge and Expertise ☐ Teacher identifies appropriate content specific vocabulary. ☐ Teacher adjusts instruction to address common misunderstandings and preconceptions. 	Expectations	
2.2 Content Knowledge and Expertise Community of learners. Teacher identifies appropriate content specific vocabulary. Teacher adjusts instruction to address common misunderstandings and preconceptions.		
2.2 Content Knowledge and Expertise Teacher identifies appropriate content specific vocabulary. Teacher adjusts instruction to address common misunderstandings and preconceptions.		
Knowledge and Expertise Teacher identifies appropriate content specific vocabulary. Teacher adjusts instruction to address common misunderstandings and preconceptions.		Community of learners.
Expertise Teacher adjusts instruction to address common misunderstandings and preconceptions.	2.2 Content	
Expertise preconceptions.	Knowledge and	_
preconceptions.	-	
l eacher promotes literacy across the curriculum.		<u></u> .
		I eacher promotes literacy across the curriculum.
2.3 Communication	2.3 Communication	
Teacher communicates clearly.		·
Teacher integrates technology in order to help students master lesson		
objective.		
☐ Teacher uses a variety of verbal and non-verbal techniques to		
communicate lesson objectives and directions clearly.		
☐ Teacher displays enthusiasm and energy.		☐ Teacher displays enthusiasm and energy.
2.4 Differentiation	2.4 Differentiation	
Lesson is differentiated to meet the needs of all learners.		
☐ Teacher uses various instructional techniques to meet the needs of		· ·
diverse learners.		
☐ Teacher demonstrates knowledge and understanding of subject area		☐ Teacher demonstrates knowledge and understanding of subject area
taught.		taught.
2.5 Monitor and	2.5 Monitor and	
Adjust Teacher uses a variety of student engagement methods.		

(i.e., pace, wait time, questioning, probing, etc.)

experiences.

accordingly.

preconceptions.

 $\hfill \square$ Teacher sets high expectations and creates challenging learning

☐ Teacher consistently checks for understanding and scaffolds lesson

☐ Teacher demonstrates appropriate and responsive pacing of instruction

☐ Teacher adjusts instruction to address common misunderstandings and

Observations:	
Domain 3: Learnin	g Environment
Dimension	Evidence (check all that apply)
3.1 Classroom Environment, Routines and Procedures	 ☐ Teacher creates a mutually respectful, collaborative and safe community of learners. ☐ Teacher establishes effective routines and procedures. ☐ Teacher maintains effective transitions. ☐ Teacher manages time effectively.
3.2 Managing Student Behavior	 ☐ Teacher actively monitors student engagement. ☐ Teacher appropriately reinforces and redirects student behavior. ☐ Teacher consistently implements classroom management plan.
3.3 Classroom Culture	☐ Teacher handles conflict and/or disagreement in a calm manner.☐ Teacher selects appropriate grouping practices to meet learning objectives.
General Notes & Observations:	
Highlights of what	I saw during my walk-through
Area of Strength	Things I liked Seeing today
Area of Weakness	Strategies To Consider Adjusting

Post-Conference for Informal Observation

Action Plan				
Area of Focus	Action Steps to Improve Area of Focus			
Intern Signature		Field Supervisor Signature		
Date of Informal Confe	erence with Clinical Teacher			
Date of Informat Come	FIGURE WILLI CHILICAL LEACHEL			

This fillable form is sent to the Field Supervisor through email upon acceptance of assignment.

Field Supervisor Responsibilities Checklist

ACP Teacher (ACPT) / Semester:	ACP Teacher E-mail:	
Mentor Teacher (MT):	MT E-mail:	
Field Supervisor (FS):	FS E-mail:	
Campus Principal:	CP E-mail:	
School Address:	School Phone Number:	
	District (if applicable):	
Role	e / Responsibility	
Field Supervisor Initial Meeting with ACP Teacher (Initial) FS ACPT Date:		
#1 ACP PEP Cycle (within weeks 1 to 6 of interns Pre-Conference: Date: Beginning Time:	• •	
Evaluation: Date: Time Begin: End:		
Post-Conference: Date: Time Begin:		
Evaluation Received: (initial) ACPT MT		
#1 Informal Observation (Walk Through) IO/WT: Date: Time Begin: End: Post-Conference: Date: Time Begin:		
#2 ACP PEP Cycle (within weeks 7-12 of internsh	• •	
Pre-Conference: Date: Beginning Time:		
Evaluation: Date: Time Begin: End: Post-Conference: Date: Time Begin:		
_	Principal/Designee	
#2 Informal Observation (Walk Through)		
IO/WT: Date: Time Begin: End:		
Post-Conference: Date: Time Begin:	_ End:	
#3 ACP PEP Cycle (within weeks 13-18 of interns Pre-Conference: Date: Beginning Time:	• •	
Pre-Conference: Date: Beginning Time:	End:	
-	End: Total Minutes: (min. 45 min.)	

IO/WT: Date: Time Begin: End: Total Minutes: (min. 15 min.)				
Post-Conference: Date: Time Begin: End:				
#4 ACP PEP Cycle (between January to March on internship) Pre-Conference: Date: Beginning Time: End:				
Evaluation: Date: Time Begin: End: Total Minutes: (min. 45 min.)				
Post-Conference: Date: Time Begin: End: Total rimitates: (rimit 15 time)				
Evaluation Received: (initial) ACPT MT Principal/Designee				
#4 Informal Observation (Walk Through)				
IO/WT: Date: Time Begin: End: Total Minutes: (min. 15 min.)				
Post-Conference: Date: Time Begin: End:				
#5 ACP PEP Cycle (between March to May of internship)				
Pre-Conference: Date: Beginning Time: End:				
Evaluation: Date: Time Begin: End: Total Minutes: (min. 45 min.)				
Post-Conference: Date: Time Begin: End:				
Evaluation Received: (initial) ACPT MT Principal/Designee				
Field Supervisor Descriptive Word/Phrase for Student Teacher (Will be entered into their TEA Certification file):				
Statement of Proficiency My initials indicate agreement that the ACP intern is proficient and ready for standard certification. (initial) FS MT Campus Principal				
Submit required documents & checklist to Nelson University Teacher Education Office				
Field Supervisor Signature: Date:				
Nelson University Teacher Education Office (Completed after Paperwork is Received)				
Date Accepted: Date Reviewed:				
MT TEA ID #: Intern TEA ID#:				



Training Requirements & Signature Form

Clinical Teacher or Intern / Semester:	Semester Dates:		
Cooperating Teacher or Mentor			
Training: Clinical Teacher or Intern			
*I hereby certify that I was trained by a Nelson University Teacher Education Administrator as to the role			
and responsibility of a Clinical Teacher on (DATE)			
(CLT/Intern))(DoTE)		
Training: Field Supervisor *I hereby certify that I was trained by a Nelson Uni	versity Teacher Education Administrator as to the role		
and responsibility of a Field Supervisor on (DATE)			
(FS)	(DoTE)		
Training: Cooperating Teacher or Mentor			
*I hereby certify that I was trained by a Nelson Uni	versity Teacher Education Administrator as to the role		
and responsibility of a Cooperating Teacher on (Da	ATE)		
(CT/Mento	r)(Dept. Chair)		

Nelson University Teacher Education Dismissal from Internship and Education Program

Intern:	Field Supervisor:	
Mentor Teacher:	Date of Meeting:	
Concern(s) and Documentation:		
Summary of Discussion:		
Action(s) to be taken:		
 professional Education or I Appeal in wring, the remove Committee Chair. This doe 	fice to apply for a change of degree (suggestions include Pre- nterdisciplinary Studies) al from the Teacher Education Program to the Teacher Education not allow the student to continue clinical teaching. Note: The neeting within 10 business days from the date in which the letter v	vas
Intern Signature:		
Field Supervisor Signature:		
Director of Teacher Education:		
Department Chair Signature:		

Acknowledgement of ACP Internship Handbook

Name:	
Field Supervisor:	
My signature acknowledges that I have read an Internship Handbook and agree to abide by the referenced in the handbook.	•
I also accept responsibility for contacting my suneed further explanation, as well as completing	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
 ACP Intern Signature	 Date

^{**}Sign, date, and return this document to the Certification Officer or Director of Teacher Education within the first three (3) weeks of Internship I.