Clinical Experiences Expectations

All professional studies courses and most teacher education courses in the College of Education require students to participate in clinical experience placements in the public schools. These placements may require that you observe, serve as a teacher aide, do a limited amount of teaching, or be involved in some other activity with children. The purpose of a clinical experience placement is to allow you the opportunity to learn from "real world" teaching - learning situations, to experience social, physical and mental characteristics of children, to learn how individuals and groups function in the total environment of the school, and to help you observe or practice the theory you are being taught in your College of Education courses.

In all of your clinical experience placements in public schools or other community agencies, please remember that you are an invited guest and that your behavior should be appropriate to your role as a visitor. The expectations below should be of help to you as a clinical student as you observe, work, and learn in your school or agency placement(s). If you have questions about any aspect of a clinical experience placement, please feel free to talk with your College of Education UA instructor or the Director of Field Experiences.

1. All clinical placements are made within a 40 mile radius of Graves Hall and are coordinated in public accredited schools, unless a placement cannot be identified. It is the student's responsibility to secure transportation.
2. All clinical placements are made within the typical school day (7:30 am – 3:15 pm). Therefore a clinical student must plan their day accordingly.
3. Clinical students MUST have a “Letter of Suitability” (verification of a background check and clearance) from the Alabama Department of Education. For more information concerning the “Letter of Suitability” students should contact 104 Carmichael Hall (348-6073).
4. Clinical students should review their clinical placement packet and be familiar with all course requirements involved with the clinical placement.
5. Clinical students should respond professionally to the evaluations, constructive criticism, and advice of classroom teachers and supervisors.
6. Clinical students should avoid absences except for serious illness and emergency situations. If they are scheduled to teach or oversee a classroom activity, they should inform and deliver lesson plans to their classroom teacher in advance of an absence.
7. Clinical students should not be late and should not leave early. They should follow their arranged schedule with their classroom teacher and should not make any modifications without the permission of the classroom teacher.
8. Clinical students should maintain a professional relationship with their classroom teacher, school staff, and administrators at their assigned school.
9. Clinical students should maintain a professional relationship with all students.
10. Clinical students should refrain from publishing inappropriate, confidential, dishonest, or slanderous information on public accessible internet sites (i.e. Facebook, MySpace, various blogs, and bulletin boards).
11. Clinical students should respect and maintain a professional confidentiality with colleagues, administrators, parents, and students.
12. Clinical students should follow the procedures for mandatory reporting of physical or sexual abuse.
13. Clinical students should uphold school and district rules regarding drug and alcohol use and sexual harassment.
14. Clinical students should consult with their classroom teacher, university instructor, and the Director of Field Experiences as soon as classroom problems arise.
15. Clinical students should not contact students’ parents without permission from the classroom teacher.
16. Clinical students should have proof of professional liability insurance. (Clinical students have several different options for professional liability insurance: independent insurers, professional organization memberships such as the Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC) or Student AEA/NEA (SAEA) - https://www.nea.org.
17. Clinical students should wear a picture identification badge during every school visit. (A plastic badge cover can be obtained in the Office of Clinical Experiences (101 Graves Hall). The clinical student’s ACTion card should be used as the picture identification.)
18. Clinical students should maintain a professional appearance and demeanor at the school site and at all school-sponsored events they attend.
   - Dress neatly, clean, not too wrinkled, and not too tight
   - No caps or head covering (unless for medical or religious reasons)
   - No gum
   - No spaghetti straps or low cut tops
   - No visible pierced areas except ears
   - No midriff showing (either front or back)
   - No underwear showing
   - No flip flops
   - Tattoos covered
   - Never sexy or provocative
   - Males’ shirts tucked in and beards trimmed or clean shaven
   - No blue jeans (unless during a school sanctioned “casual day”)
   - No eating or drinking in the classroom when students are not permitted to eat or drink
   - Females’ higher neck lines and lower hem lines.
   - When in question, follow the student’s dress code for the school district.