Curriculum and Teaching Clinical Experiences

Field Experiences and Clinical Practice

Field Experiences

(early and ongoing field-based opportunities in which candidates may observe, assist, tutor, instruct, and/or conduct research)

**Practicum.** All candidates for professional certification in Curriculum and Teaching complete a 50-hour practicum connected to C&T 4005 Principles of Teaching and Learning. All candidates log 50-hours related to suggested and required practicum activities that explore the principles of teaching and learning from the perspective of social justice inquiry and reflection. Practicum activities require attention to issues of diversity and demonstrate knowledge and skills to address needs of students from diverse groups, backgrounds and experiences. Hours include observations of classroom spaces and instructional practices, interactions between and among students and teachers, as well as extensive writing to document experiences and reflections. All candidates, who are not currently teaching, are placed in NYC classrooms/schools by the program staff. Candidates who are currently teaching use their own classroom/school as the site for practicum activities. In the rare situation where they are working in schools with a homogeneous population, they are required to seek out alternate observation sites to complete some of their practicum activities.

*See a menu of practicum activities and an evaluation rubric in the attachments for Practicum Evaluation.*

**Masters Action Research Project.** The second major field experience involves conducting an action research project in the candidate's own classroom or in a placement assigned by the program staff. Typically, full-time teachers take the 50 hr C&T 4005 practicum in the first fall semester and enroll in C&T 4130 Critical Perspectives in Elementary Education (3 credits) taught in conjunction with C&T 4502 Master's Project (1 credit) in their second or third fall semester. Full-time candidates who are trying to complete the degree in 12 months, enroll in C&T 4005, C&T 4130 and C&T4502 in the fall semester. The C&T 4130/4502 course is taught every fall by one of the two CUED professorial faculty members. The master's action research project is initiated in the fall semester and continues through the spring semester (0 credits).

After observing in the classroom, candidates (in collaboration with their host teacher) identify a problem that needs addressing. After collecting and analyzing data from multiple sources, they consider alternative courses of action, collecting pre-action data when appropriate. They plan and take action based on their data and relevant literature. After implementing the action, they assess the intended and unintended consequences of their action, and plan appropriate future research and action. The project involves at least one cycle of action, but often more than one. The formal written report documents all aspects of their study, ending in a critical reflection on their own action research and on implications for teaching for social justice.

The estimated time in the field required to complete the project is 100-160 hours (16 weeks). The time frame for the project is dependent on whether candidate is a currently teaching or a full-time student placed in a host teacher's classroom. The typical time frame for classroom teachers is identifying problem (Sept-November), initial data collection (November-December), planning and taking action (January-February) assessment (late February-early March), initial submission (mid-March), revisions approved by April 30 for a May graduation. The typical time frame for a full time student is 4005 practicum (October-November), identifying problem (November-December), initial data collection (January), planning and taking action (February-March), assessment (late March-early April) initial submission (April 30), revisions approved by mid-June for October graduation. Candidates who do not complete revisions by the May or October graduation deadlines, register in C&T 4502 for zero credit until they have an approved project.
Total Hours: 50hrs