Residency Questions

General Program Structure

What is Residency I?

Residency I is the first semester of the year-long teacher residency experience. During this semester, residents transition from observation to active participation in classroom instruction while working alongside an Experienced Mentor Teacher (EMT).

Residency I is taken during your Senior I block. You will want to make sure that you are keeping up with your degree plan to determine when your Residency I semester will begin.

What is Residency II?

Residency II is the culminating clinical experience within the Educator Preparation Program. During this full-time residency, candidates assume primary responsibility for classroom instruction while continuing to receive support from their Experienced Mentor Teacher and University Supervisor.

Residency II is the last course that you have remaining during your Senior year. Please note that no other courses can be taken with Residency II unless approved by your Program Coordinator. (max 3 additional hours)

What is the length of each Residency course?

Residency I is a full semester, you will spend up to 18 hours per week at your assigned Residency placement.

Residency II is a full semester, and you will spend 40 hours per week at your assigned Residency placement.

What courses must be completed before Residency?

Please see your academic advisor for specifics.

Placement Process

How are placements assigned?

Your placements are coordinated through the Professional Education Programs Office. The Associate Director of Field Placement would be responsible for making those placement decisions.

Can I choose my district?

I am a traditional (in-person) undergraduate student.

The Associate Director of Field Placement is responsible for choosing your district.

I am an online undergraduate student.

You will have the opportunity to give your district preference.

I am a MAT or Pre-K Academy student.

Your placement will be at your place of employment.

Can I request my current school?

If you are employed as a paraprofessional, you can request your current school.

When will I receive my placement?

The Associate Director of Field Placement will give exact dates for when to expect placement confirmations during your pre-residency meeting.

What if I work full-time?

Residency II is a full-time commitment. If you are a paraprofessional, you can use your job to meet your Residency requirements.

Attendance & Expectations

How many days are required?

You are required to be in the field during Residency I for at least 18 hours per week. Every program may have a different schedule for when those days/times will be.

During Residency II, you will be in the field 5 days per week.

What happens if I miss a day?

You are only allowed to miss 3 days during Residency I and 3 days during Residency II. You will be required to submit those days to the Professional Education Programs office and to your University Supervisor.

Can I substitute teach?

You may substitute 1 day during Residency I and 1 day during Residency II. During Residency I, you are only allowed to substitute within the building that you are assigned. During Residency II, you will be allowed to substitute throughout the school district.

What are professional expectations?

Residency students are expected to demonstrate professional conduct at all times, as they represent both their school district and Arkansas State University. This includes adhering to the Arkansas Code of Ethics for Educators, maintaining confidentiality, and demonstrating integrity, respect, and a growth mindset.

Mentor & Supervisor Information

Who selects my mentor?

The Associate Director of Field Placement and the partnering School District will determine who will be the Resident's Experienced Mentor Teacher.

What qualifications must mentors have?

An Experienced Mentor Teacher must have at least 3 years of experience, licensed in content area that they are teaching, highly effective or effective TESS rating, an approved coaching training certificate and the ability to mentor adults.

What does my university supervisor do?

A University Supervisor serves as the bridge between the university and the school district during a candidate’s Residency or Internship experience. Their primary role is to support, observe, and evaluate the resident while ensuring program expectations and state requirements are met.

What does a Residency Coordinator do?

The Residency Coordinator provides guidance and support to residents, ensures alignment with accreditation and ADE requirements, and works to strengthen district partnerships to sustain high-quality residency experiences. In addition, the Residency Coordinator conducts site visits with residents and Experienced Mentor Teachers to ensure the Residency program meets expectations, maintaining program fidelity, and aligning with both university and district standards.

How are evaluations completed?

All evaluations are conducted by the University Supervisor. During Residency I, residents will complete two formative evaluations, one summative evaluation, and two to four walkthroughs. The same evaluation requirements will apply during Residency II, with residents completing two formative evaluations, one summative evaluation, and two to four walkthroughs.

Problem Resolution

What if I am having issues with my mentor?

If you experience any concerns or challenges with your Experienced Mentor Teacher (EMT), your first point of contact should be your University Supervisor. If the issue remains unresolved, you should contact the Associate Director of Field Placement for further assistance.

Who do I contact first?

Your University Supervisor should always be your first point of contact regarding any questions or concerns. If an issue remains unresolved after communicating with your University Supervisor, you should contact the Associate Director of Field Placement for further assistance.

What if my placement isn't working for me?

If you experience challenges or concerns with your placement, you should notify your University Supervisor as soon as possible. Your University Supervisor is then responsible for communicating those concerns to the Associate Director of Field Placement to determine the appropriate next steps.

What if I need accommodations?

If you require accommodations, you must register with the Arkansas State University Access and Accommodations Office. The office is located on the second floor of the Reng Student Union, Room 2181. For additional information or assistance, please contact the office at 870-972-3964.

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