

School and Mentor Selection Process
Excerpted from page 9 of Clinical Experiences Handbook

The Teacher Education Program believes that appropriate placement of teacher candidates for internship plays an important part in the success experienced by the candidate. Thus, care shall be taken to select schools for candidate placements that meet the following criteria:

1. The district has adequate physical plants and facilities to offer at least the minimum program prescribed for South Carolina school districts.
2. The school district administration, the school principal, and teachers actively desire to work with teacher candidates during internship.
3. Mentor teachers are fully certified in their areas and have at least three years of teaching experience, with two years in the subject area or grade level for which supervision is assigned.
4. Internship experiences are coordinated by the Teacher Education Program faculty.

The intern shall be under the immediate supervision of the mentor teacher to whom he/she is assigned. Overall daily supervision of the candidates is assumed by the school principal on the same basis as his/her supervision of regularly assigned teachers. Both the principal and the mentor teacher have the authority and obligation to provide the intern with direction, advice, information, and correction, as needed. In any situation where the best interests of school children seem to be compromised or threatened by the assignment of the intern, the principal may require a new assignment or removal of the intern.

The Newberry College Department of Education will assume the responsibility for training and orientation of mentor teachers and will furnish appropriate materials and information to them.

Newberry College invests much time and energy in the teacher candidates it places for internship each semester. The placement process for internship is unique in that each candidate is placed in a specific school, district, and classroom where the candidate can experience optimal success and growth. Each mentor selected is screened by the Coordinator of Clinical Experiences and meets the criteria set by the Education Department. The Coordinator is a former teacher with 30 years experience in the public school systems of South Carolina. She has been a specialist with the SC Department of Education, worked on many state committees, and served as an officer in several local and national organizations. This vast array of experiences has given her a wide knowledge base of people in the schools of South Carolina. With this knowledge and personal experiences with many of the mentors and the teacher candidates she is able to place interns with mentors personally suited to their style, temperament, and philosophy of education.

Before placement, the Coordinator of Clinical Experiences collaborates with professors who have worked with the teacher candidates, meets with the principal or curriculum personnel in each school to discuss the mentor's style, and refers to the candidate database to determine the placements the candidate has previously experienced. The database details experiences such as grade level, content area, school demographics, and classroom and mentor diversity. This specific selection process has resulted in scaffolding teacher candidates to more and more rigorous activities and experiencing extreme growth in teaching a variety of students.