

Clinical Teacher Mentor Teacher Application

If You Are Interested in Becoming a Mentor/Cooperating Teacher

For Clinical Teachers

Lamar University Teacher Education Department

Clinical teaching is the culminating experience in the teacher education program at Lamar University. It requires our teacher candidates to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitudes about teaching and learning that have accrued through the undergraduate experience.

The mentor/cooperating teacher models the role of a professional educator and is influential in the development of pre-service teachers. Teacher candidates quickly absorb attitudes and philosophy from mentors; therefore, the work of the mentor is critical to the teaching profession. It is both the aim and expectation of Lamar University's Teacher Preparation Program that all participants become reflective professional educators who facilitate successful student learning. The research shows that mentor teachers have a substantial impact on teacher candidates. The quality of the relationship developed between the experienced teacher and the teacher candidate is critical to an effective and meaningful mentoring experience. Mentors are chosen because they are seen as an exemplary person doing a great job in the classroom.

As of December 2016, Texas Administrative code (TAC)* provided specific requirements Educator Preparation Programs must collect and document regarding qualifications for clinical teacher mentors. In addition, mentors must now attend mentor training within the first three weeks of the candidate beginning their clinical teaching placement. The following are the current qualifications for mentor teachers:

1. Willing to complete the application process which includes
 - a. a TAC required training session provided face to face or online by Lamar University. Once the mentors are identified training information will be sent by email, and
 - b. Provide the Office of Field Experience with a resume.
 - c. Principal assurance of mentor qualifications.
2. The mentor holds a valid Texas teaching certification in the certification area being pursued by the clinical teacher, and
3. has at least three years' experience as a classroom teacher, and
4. is an accomplished educator as shown by student learning through evaluation, campus/district accountability, or letters of recommendations, and (please see the last page of this application for our principal recommendation)
5. will guide, assist, and support the candidate during the clinical teaching semester, and
6. will consistently report the clinical teacher's progress to the assigned LU field supervisor,

Applications can be submitted at any time during the year. New schools and teams are encouraged. For additional information, please contact Gayle Butaud at 409-889-8033 or email gayle.butaud@lamar.edu. Please mail completed application packet to:

Gayle L. Butaud Gayle.butaud@lamar.edu

Terms of Agreement

- Complete the application information.
- Attend the mentor training session (on line or face to face) and provide the appropriate documentation of attendance.
- Provide guidance, assistance and support to the teacher candidate during the clinical teaching semester.
- Complete all clinical teacher evaluation on the Tk20 data gathering system.
- Consistently report the progress of the clinical teacher to the assigned Lu field supervisor.

In appreciation for your performance of these specific duties, full semester assigned clinical teacher mentors will be paid a stipend of two hundred dollars (\$200.00), one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for a split assignment. To qualify for this stipend, the clinical teacher must be assigned and attend your classroom for at least ½ of the required semester. The amount of the stipend will be adjusted for clinical teacher not completing the full assignment.

Placement Process of Clinical Teachers for Each Semester:

- Each semester a Clinical Teacher Placement Committee will meet to determine appropriate placement for clinical teacher for the following semester. The Office of Field Experience will contact campus principals or district human resources as appropriate to request placements for the following semester. Letters of assurance are required from principals before teachers can be considered as mentors for clinical teachers.
- Teacher candidates and their mentor teachers will be notified by email. Fall placement will be notified middle to late spring of placements and spring placements will be notified middle to late fall of placements. Assigned teacher candidates are required to complete 15 hours observation with their mentor teaches the semester prior to the clinical teaching semester.
- The number of mentor teachers chosen each semester will be based on the number of teacher candidates who need to be placed in a clinical teaching assignment. There is a wide variation from semester to semester in the numbers and in the particular levels and /or content areas.
- Teacher candidates are allowed to request a district, and do our best to honor the district choice if at all possible. It is not appropriate for a teacher candidate to request a teacher or seek a placement for themselves.
- A clinical teacher is NOT assigned to a school where there are close social or family ties (i.e. family member teaching in, working in, or attending the school; or close friends in a position in the school that might cause undue influence of the clinical teaching experience). Other conditions may prevent clinical teachers to be placed in specific districts or on specific campuses.
- The Clinical Teacher Placement Committee will look closely at all mentor teachers and will attempt to place the students in the best possible assignments taking into consideration the following:
 - the students and their needs

- the requested district
 - the ability to form a team on a campus
- Principals and administrators will be notified of tentative placements before placements are given to students.
- The committee will work hard to rotate placements so that as many schools as possible may participate. The Director of the Office of Field Experience will continue to communicate with area districts and involve as many mentor teachers as possible.



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
 LAMAR UNIVERSITY
 TEACHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Assurances of Qualification for Clinical Teacher Mentor Teachers

Please print:

I, _____ (Name of recommending supervisor) will recommend
 _____(Name of Mentor Teacher) to serve as a mentor teacher for clinical
 ter and meets the following TAC requirements on the date this letter was signed.

Please check all that apply

- The mentor teacher holds a valid Texas teacher certificate in
 _____.
- The mentor teacher has at least three years of experience as a classroom teacher.
- The mentor teacher is an accomplished educator as shown by student learning through
 evaluation, campus/district accountability.
- The mentor teacher is willing and able to guide, assist, and support the teacher candidate
 during the semester of clinical teaching.
- The mentor teacher will report the teacher candidates' progress to the candidate's assigned
 supervisor or the Office of Field Experience.

I certify that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge and that I have authority
 to certify the above information.

Name	Date Signed
Job Title	Email
School Address	School Phone Number

