

**Teacher Assistant Senior Year Placement Options**  
**Latham Clinical Schools Network**  
**Wachovia Partnership East**

All students completing teacher education programs must complete the same requirements regardless if they are on campus, transfer or distance education students. The Department of Curriculum and Instruction has created the following teaching assistant internship placement procedures for students seeking degrees in the areas of elementary and special education to ensure equitable experiences while supporting teacher assistants in the best transition into the teaching profession. All internship assignments must be approved by the Office of Clinical Experiences. Interns should not be assigned to schools they have attended, they have been employed, they have relatives employed, or they have children enrolled.

**Preferred Senior Year Placement**

The preferred Senior Year Placement would involve an internship in a school other than the school where the student is currently employed. Both Senior I and Senior II experiences would take place at this school.

The advantages of this placement would include:

- Provides the Intern with a new classroom assignment in which to gain experience toward the K-6 license or Special Education license.
- Provides a new Clinical Teacher for the Intern, one who was not previously the Intern's supervisor/evaluator.
- Provides a new group of students and parents for the Intern to get to know as a teacher as opposed to a Teaching Assistant.
- Provides a fresh start as an intern for the Teaching Assistant as opposed to trying to "role switch" from Teaching Assistant to Intern.

**Second Option: Less Preferred Senior Year Placement**

The teacher assistant remains in his/her own classroom for the Senior I semester of the internship and is then assigned to a new classroom in a new school for the Sr. II semester of the internship.

This new role of intern should not include the responsibilities of the previous role of Teaching Assistant (driving a bus, etc.). The role should include only those responsibilities that any intern would have and should not be confused with or combined with the previous role of Teaching Assistant.

The **limitations** of this placement would include:

- The Senior I internship experience is unlikely to be clearly differentiated from the previous role of Teaching Assistant. This will more than likely compromise the quality of the Senior I internship.
- This arrangement does not provide a continuous year with the same students in the same classroom.
- It is likely that students and parents will not recognize the new role of the student as Intern and will continue to interact with the intern as a Teaching Assistant.
- This placement option may amplify existing conflicts between the Clinical Teacher and the Intern limiting questions, creativity, and communication.
- This placement may require repetitive work in the preparation of internship materials (i.e. unit, lesson, and classroom management plans) accounting for differences in the setting between the Sr. I experience and Sr. II experience.

East Carolina University is not involved in the decision for continued salary for teacher assistants during the Senior Year Internship. This is a school system decision.