



ECU Educator Preparation Teacher Assistant/Employee Internship Placement Options

All students completing teacher education programs must complete the same requirements regardless of if they are on campus, transfer, or distance education students. The Office of Educator Preparation has created the following teacher assistant internship placement preferences to ensure equitable experiences for all candidates while supporting teacher assistants in transitioning to the teaching profession. All internship assignments must be approved by the Office of Clinical Experiences. **Teacher Assistance placement decisions are made by the employing district, not the intern.** Teacher Assistance placements will abide by statute set forth in NC G.S. 115C-269.30 as outlined in NC State Board of Education policy [TCED-014](#). Per ECU Educator Preparation policy, interns, including Teacher Assistants, will not be assigned to schools they have previously attended or where they have relatives or children employed. The Teacher Assistant internship placement options below are listed in order of preference to assist districts in determining an appropriate placement.

Definitions:

Clinical Internship-Type of field experience in which a clinical intern works under the supervision of a clinical teacher and may be delegated those duties granted to an educator by G.S. 115C-307 and any other part of the school program for which the clinical teacher is responsible.

Clinical Teacher-Individual employed by a partner school, including a classroom teacher who assesses, supports, and develops a clinical intern's knowledge, skill, and professional disposition during an internship. Clinical Teachers must meet NC requirements and complete ECU Clinical Teacher training.

Intern I Semester-Intern completes 1 day per week at the internship placement site.

Intern II Semester-Full-time student teaching semester.

1. Internship I and II Placement at New School

The preferred student teaching internship placement will take place in a school other than the school where the teacher assistant is currently employed. Both Intern I and Intern II experiences would take place at this new school.

2. Internship II Placement at New School

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

3. Intern I and II Placement in New Classroom

The teacher assistant will remain in their current school but will complete both Intern I and II assignments in a new classroom within the current school.

4. Internship II Placement in New Classroom

The teacher assistant remains in his/her own classroom for the Intern I semester of the internship and is then assigned to a new classroom within the same school for the full-time Intern II Semester.

5. Intern I and II Placement in Current Classroom Assignment

The teacher assistant remains in his/her own classroom for both the Intern I and Intern II semesters. While this is allowable under NC policy, this option is typically only selected when there are no other options for internship placement that fulfill the requirements of the internship/degree area (i.e., only one content area classroom in district/school, lack of other qualified clinical educators, etc.).



Placement considerations for districts:

This new role of intern should not include the responsibilities of the previous role of Teaching Assistant (driving a bus, etc.).

The advantages of new placements, particularly in a new school include:

- 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.
- Provides the intern with a different classroom/school experience to strengthen preparation and prepare for the licensure area.

Limitations of completing internship in current classroom or split placements include:

- The internship experience is unlikely to be clearly differentiated from the previous role of Teaching Assistant.
- Split arrangements for Intern I and II do not provide a continuous year with the same students in the same classroom.
- If placed in the same school/classroom, students and parents may 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.

For all teacher assistant placements, the Intern, Clinical Educator, and Building Administrator will sign and acknowledge the ECU Teacher Assistant/Internship Contract. If an intern secures a Teacher Assistant position after the internship application is completed or after the placement has occurred, the intern must provide notice to the Office of Clinical Experiences within 2 business days. The Office of Clinical Experiences will contact the district to confirm placement and the intern/administrator must sign the Teacher Assistant Internship Contract to continue the internship.

East Carolina University is not involved in decisions related to Teacher Assistant employment. Continuing employment is at the discretion of the school district.