

July 30, 2020

Dear College of Education Students,

We know many of you are anxiously awaiting information about the impact of COVID-19 on your field experiences and placements. As you know, the feasibility of field placements is contingent upon the decisions our local and state leaders make in terms of gathering and social distancing requirements. Consequently, these decisions change frequently and quickly as leaders respond to the fluidity of the pandemic.

As aligned with the University guidelines (see <https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/internships>) and with the information that we have been provided from a range of field placement sites, all students in field placements (i.e. practicum, internship, student teaching) will align themselves with the actions of their mentor teachers and/or clinical site supervisors where applicable. For example, if mentors or clinical site supervisors are providing asynchronous online instruction or clinical services, respectively, candidates will support their mentor in providing these respective activities. If sites are providing face-to-face or real-time instruction or clinical services, candidates or supervisees will participate in the site-selected modality (e.g., face-to-face instruction, telecounseling). This also includes any professional development experiences.

We realize that participating in face-to-face instruction or clinical services may pose a risk to you or the health of a loved one. Additionally, with many schools moving to online instruction, you may experience child care difficulties preventing you from participating in face-to-face settings. If for any reason, you are not able to attend in a face-to-face context, please let your field experience coordinator know as soon as possible. We understand the concern and are committed to accommodating student needs to the greatest extent possible.

These are general, college wide guidelines for the current conditions as we understand them. Your field experience coordinator will follow-up with you on your specific placements and programmatic considerations. As the situation in southern Nevada changes, we may have to shift accordingly. We will do all that we can to update you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

*Tracy Spies, Ph.D.*

Tracy Spies, Associate Dean of Academic and Professional Programs