



OKLAHOMA
PANHANDLE STATE
UNIVERSITY

School of Education

August Experience for OPSU Interns

It is the belief of the OPSU Teacher Education Program that practical experience is just as valuable as classroom learning. That is why there are so many field experiences built within our program. One of the most valuable experiences that a teacher candidate can have is that of setting up the classroom for the first of the year. For this reason, the OPSU Teacher Education Program has implemented the **August Experience**.

All teacher candidates who have been accepted into the professional semester of student teaching will be given the location of their student teaching placement and the name of their cooperating teacher prior to their student teaching assignment. This applies to teacher candidates completing their student internship in the fall or spring semesters.

To fulfill the requirements of the **August Experience**, the Intern must:

1. Contact both the building principal of his/her assigned school and his/her assigned cooperating teacher. The intern will need to set up future dates prior to the beginning of the school year for the following activities:
 - **One half-day minimum** will be spent helping the cooperating teacher “set up” the classroom—creating bulletin boards, arranging desks, entering names in the grade book, etc.
 - **One half-day minimum** is required to attend a pre-school professional development activity with the cooperating teacher, other teachers at the school, and the administration.
2. The Spring Intern will also be expected to attend his/her assigned school for the **first full day of class** (the Fall Intern is on-site as expected). The Spring Intern will be excused from a day of their scheduled classes at OPSU if the first day of public school falls on an OPSU class date. If this happens, the teacher candidate is to contact the Field Placement Office via phone, 580-349-1414. A memo will be issued to the appropriate OPSU professor explaining the absence.
3. The teacher candidate is required to write a 2 page reflection paper about these activities. They should interview the Cooperating Teacher regarding school and district procedures in order to fulfill this project.

It is expected that August Experience will be the most beneficial pre-service experience that OPSU can provide the teacher candidate. Therefore, there will be no exceptions to this requirement. **All student teachers (fall and spring semesters) will participate in August Experience or they will not be allowed to student teach that year.**