



## **BLOCK III FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

### **1) What courses will I take in Block III?**

Block III consists of 9 total semester credit hours (SCH) including 6 SCH in Student Teaching (waived for full-time teachers with teaching contracts and full-time teacher aides with approved SBEC educational aide exemptions) and 3 SCH in SOSE 4303 (for student teachers) or 3 SCH in SOSE 4304 (for post baccalaureate students with teaching contracts and full-time teacher aides with approved SBEC educational aide exemptions).

Student teaching is a required culminating experience of the Teacher Certification process. This is a one-semester (six semester credit hours), unpaid, full-time experience in an accredited local public school classroom. No other courses should be taken with the 9-hour block (Student Teaching and SOSE 4303) without prior approval from the department chair. See question #12 regarding scholarship opportunities.

### **2) Can I be exempt from student teaching?**

In order to request a student teaching exemption, a student must have the following:

- a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) from an accredited institution of higher education
- completed one full year of teaching as the teacher of record on an Emergency Permit – ( a copy of the teaching contract must be on file in the Department of Urban Education office)
- taught at the grade level and in the subject area for which certification is sought
- successfully completed Block I and Block II

### **3) How do I meet the Block III requirements if I am exempt from student teaching?**

Students must have completed one full year of teaching as the teacher of record on an Emergency Permit. A copy of the teaching contract must be on file in the Department of Urban Education office before the Block III semester.

Students exempt from the 6 SCH of Student Teaching may be observed in their classroom by a university supervisor to satisfy the field-based requirement.

Students who are exempt from 6 SCH of Student Teaching must enroll in SOSE 4304 and be within 0-9 SCH of completing his/her deficiency plan.



#### **4) When is the Block III application due?**

Block III applications are due the 2nd Friday in February for students taking Block III in the fall semester and the 2nd Friday in September for students taking Block III during the spring semester.

#### **5) When do I register to take the TExES exam for teacher certification?**

Students may register for the TExES PPR exam at the end of Block I, and the TExES Content exam at the end of Block II. The TExES Registration Bulletin is available in the Advising Office or on the ETS website at [www.texas.ets.org](http://www.texas.ets.org). The procedure for obtaining program approval and registering for the exam is on the Department of Urban Education web site. Contact Lisa Hill at [hill@uhd.edu](mailto:hill@uhd.edu) or (713) 222-5309 for future information.

#### **6) What is the time commitment for student teaching?**

Student teaching is a full, long-semester, 15-week experience that begins when the public school teachers start their semester. The experience begins with an orientation on the UH-Downtown campus at which time a semester calendar is provided with specific dates and responsibilities. The student teaching calendar follows the assigned public school calendar, **not** the calendar of the University. Student teachers are required to be present each day of the student teaching assignment. Absences must be made up without exception. Your daily starting and ending time may be anywhere between 7:00am and 5:00pm depending on the schedule of your assigned school.

#### **7) Will I be able to work while student teaching?**

It is strongly recommended that you do not work during your student teaching assignment. Student teachers observe the local school's policy governing teachers' daily arrival and departure times. In some instances a student teacher may be expected to begin or stay beyond normal departure times if the supervising teacher has a professional assignment that begins or extends beyond the normal school day. It is highly recommended that students devote their complete attention to this assignment and the preparation that it requires; therefore, students are encouraged to apply for scholarships available through the department. See question #12.



### **8) What are the requirements for moving from Block II to Block III?**

Students must have successfully completed all prerequisites for enrollment in interdisciplinary Block III including earning a grade of C or better in Block II, and gaining the approval of the Department Chair. Students must maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA to enroll in Block III. Secondary and 4-8 Specialists students must also maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA in their area of specialization.

### **9) When do I register for Block III?**

You are eligible to register for Block III after successful completion of the Block II courses.

### **10) Do I have to student teach if I already have teaching experience?**

Yes, unless you are a post-baccalaureate student already employed by an accredited public school district on Emergency Permit or you have been, or are a certified educational aide in a Texas public school and participate in the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) Education Aide Exemption Program. Please contact the Financial Aid office for additional information on this exemption program.

### **11) Is it possible to student teach during the summer?**

No. Blocks are offered in the Summer Semester for the following students only:

- Post baccalaureates who are employed as the teacher of record on an Emergency Permit
- Undergraduates who are employed as Certified Teacher's Aides.
- Additional enrollment consideration will be given to students who have been employed as a long-term substitute, provided they:
  - have taught the grade level and subject area for which they are seeking certification
  - have taught in one continuous assignment a minimum of 180 consecutive days within the last three years.
  - have received the approval of the Department Chair.
- Enrollment in a Summer Block I or Summer Block II does not automatically waive the 6 SCH of Student Teaching in Block III, nor guarantee Summer Block III enrollment.



### **12) Are there any Department of Urban Education scholarships?**

Yes. The Gordon and Mary Cain Scholarship is exclusively available to Urban Education students teachers during the fall, spring and summer semesters. Students must apply for this scholarship separately. You may access scholarship information on the Department of Urban Education homepage or visit the UH-D financial aid office for additional scholarship opportunities.

### **13) What are Interdisciplinary Block III student teaching tasks?**

All suggested student/intern tasks for Interdisciplinary Blocks I and II, plus:

- Team-teach with Mentor teacher during the semester.
- Within the 15-week student teaching assignment, assume full instructional responsibility for a two-week period.
- Become familiar with the neighborhood and the community of the school.
- Develop strategies for working with parents including parent conferences.
- Assume responsibility for duties before and after school duties, attend ARD and LPAC meetings, staff development sessions, faculty meetings, etc.

Design an extended unit of study, prepare and teach lesson plans, and evaluate the unit in terms of learner achievement.

- Average and record grades.
- Use technology to deliver instruction to large groups and to extend learner use of technology.

### **14) Do I have to apply for graduation?**

Yes. All students must apply for graduation the semester before they plan to graduate. Your academic record is audited to ensure that you have successfully completed all degree requirements. Correspondence with the Urban Education advising office will provide additional information regarding graduation.



### **15) How can I find out more about student teaching?**

Students must attend an information meeting at the start of the long semester prior to the Student Teaching semester. Information meetings are held in each semester by the Director of Field Experiences and the Teacher Education Coordinator. Additional information is available at the Department of Urban Education website or the Advising Office in the department.

### **16) Where can I find the Student Teaching Application and Biographic Information documents?**

The Student Teaching Application and Biographic Information documents may be found on the Block III link of the Department of Urban Education website. One copy of the application and the biographic information must be submitted to the Advising Office by the stated deadline.

### **17) Are there important dates for me to know?**

Yes. An *Important Dates* calendar for student teachers is distributed at the student teaching orientation and is made available on the Block III link to the Department of Urban Education website each semester.

### **18) When will I take the state examination for certification?**

Students are eligible to take the ExCET or TExES (upon successful completion of any and all required "practice" exams) during the Block III semester. For more information on ExCET/TExES requirements, go to the web site for The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/>).

### **19) What is the Interinstitutional One Day Workshop?**

Each semester, the Director of Field Experiences in collaboration with the Directors of Field Experiences from colleges and universities in the greater Houston area and local School District representatives organize a workshop and student teacher fair. Opportunities for professional development and employment are available. Check the important dates calendar for this event.

### **20) Where can I find information about careers in teaching?**

Career Services (<http://www.uhd.edu/campus/help/uhdcareer/index.htm>) gives you the support, information, and counseling you need to explore your career options and evaluate career interests. They will help you write a resume or practice for a job interview. They also maintain a library with information about majors, labor market trends, graduate schools, and career options. Local school districts maintain active websites and postings of teaching openings. Look for



school district job postings on the bulletin board outside the Department of Urban Education advising office, S603).

## **21) Where can I find Related Information and Important Web Links?**

State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC)

<http://www.sbec.state.tx.us/>

Virtual Certificates - *check to see if your certificate has been issued!*

<http://www.sbec.state.tx.us/virtcert>

School Job Vacancies from the Region IV Service Center

<http://www.esc4.net/recruiting/job-post/public/esc.aspx>

Professional Discipline/Code of Ethics

[http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pub/plsql/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac\\_view=4&ti=19&pt=7&ch=247&rl=Y](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pub/plsql/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=19&pt=7&ch=247&rl=Y)

ExCET Homepage

<http://www.excet.nesinc.com/>

Texas Education Agency

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/>

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/teks>

Professional Development Accountability System (PDAS)

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/account.eval/index.html>

Gordon and Mary Cain Scholarship

<http://www.uhd.edu/academic/colleges/humanities/urbaned/scholarships.htm>

UH-D Financial Aid Office

[http://www.dt.uh.edu/admissions/financial\\_aid/](http://www.dt.uh.edu/admissions/financial_aid/)

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/>