



Cooperating teachers, your practicum student should

- observe your classroom for a total of 75 hours during the fall semester (typically September through early December) and
- teach a unit that should last five-eight days.

Other cooperating teachers had these questions:

1. How many hours should I expect to have my practicum student in the classroom?

Your practicum student is supposed to complete 75 hours in the classroom throughout the entire fall semester. During this time the practicum student will complete a Teacher Work Sample (TWS), which requires the student to teach a unit of instruction for five to eight days.

1. Should I treat my practicum student like a teacher aide? What should I expect from my practicum student throughout the semester?

Since your practicum student will have had more training than a teacher aide, it would be more beneficial to the practicum student and useful to you if you treated him or her like a student teacher. Your practicum student can grade papers, tutor students, and even teach mini lessons if you are comfortable with them doing so.

2. Does my practicum student have to attend meetings/games/conferences with me?

Your practicum student is not required to attend any of these activities if he or she does not want to. However, if your practicum student wants to, he or she is more than welcome to join you.

3. What level of involvement should I have while my practicum student is teaching, i.e., classroom control, timing, assignments?

It is most beneficial to your practicum student if you are not that involved during the teaching period. To be involved as little as you are comfortable with is the best way for the student to truly learn and gain from this experience.

4. **Is it better to make suggestions during a lesson or after?**

It is best if all suggestions are made after a lesson has been completed.

5. **The lesson plan evaluation form is very confusing. Is this for one lesson or for the unit as a whole?**

The reciprocal observation form is only for one of your practicum student's lessons, not for the entire unit. However, please feel free to offer advice and feedback to your practicum student without the use of the form at any other point.

6. **Should I gradually "ease" my practicum student into the teaching routine or should my practicum student strictly observe? If I should "ease," how?**

Easing your practicum student into the teaching routine is a great idea if you are comfortable with it. Any added experience in front of the students is always valuable for your practicum student, and it can help the students become better acclimated to having the practicum student teach. However, if you are uncomfortable with this, you do not have to. The final choice is always yours.

If you choose to ease your practicum student into teaching, mini-lessons or one-on-one tutoring would be a wonderful idea. However, please do not feel like this is the only way to ease your practicum student into the teaching routine. You could also have your practicum student do something simple such as take attendance or going over that week's vocabulary.