

June 24, 2020

Teacher Education Students:

The last several months have been trying times for our nation, our state, and our universities during the COVID-19 crisis. At Arkansas Tech University, we have had to make a number of decisions at various levels in consideration of the health and well-being of our students, our faculty, and various local and state partners who work with us to ensure strong field experiences for our students. The College of Education is especially impacted by state and school district decisions and evolving health considerations since we place several hundred students in the public schools every semester in a variety of field experiences.

After much discussion with public school personnel and university personnel, ***we have determined that this fall's field experiences, including the undergraduate Internship I experience, will not occur. The Internship II student teaching experience will proceed as planned in order to meet licensure requirements and will be the only field experience completed this fall.*** This decision was made based upon health and safety concerns for public school students and personnel and for university students and personnel. The potential health risks concerning COVID-19 are simply too great at this time to continue our normal field experiences. ***Again, Internship II will be the only field experience completed this fall.***

We are all disappointed in having to make this decision, but your health and the health of others in the evolving COVID-19 situation is our most important consideration. In spite of this change for the fall semester, be assured the faculty are already working hard to provide you with activities and experiences to continue to prepare you to be one of the best teachers in Arkansas. Hopefully, we will be able to resume normal field experiences in the coming spring semester. We wish for all of you good health during this time.

Sincerely,



Dr. Tim Carter
College of Education, Associate Dean