

# SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Preparing Competent Professional Educators with a Christian Worldview

# **PROGRAM SPECIALIST HANDBOOK**

Liberty University School of Education 1971 University Blvd. Lynchburg, VA 24515 Phone: 434-582-2444 Fax: 434-582-2468 <u>soe@liberty.edu</u> www.liberty.edu/education

The contents of this handbook are relevant only to the programs listed below:

- Master of Education Math Specialist Endorsement (Advanced Licensure)
- <u>Master of Education Reading Specialist Endorsement (Advanced Licensure)</u>

# CONTENTS

SOE LICENSURE RESOURCE COMMUNITY IN CANVAS	3
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK	3
PROGRAM SPECIALIST DEGREE	
General Information: Program Specialist Degree	3
Routes to Licensure as a Program Specialist	3
Master of Education (M.Ed.) Math/Reading Specialist Endorsement	3
Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)	3
Education Specialist (Ed.S.) or Doctorate in Educational Leadership (Ed.D.)	4
GATE SYSTEM	
Gate 1: Admission to Liberty University	
Gate 2: Program Acceptance & Retention	4
Gate 3: Internship Approval	5
Gate 4: Degree Conferral & Licensure Recommendation	5
Licensure in States Other Than Virginia	
Virginia Math/Reading Specialist Licensure	
FIELD EXPERIENCES	
Course-Embedded Field Experiences	
Documentation of Field Experiences	
Background Check	
Procedures for Coordinating Course-Embedded Field Experiences/Activities	
Placements in the LOCAL Area	
External No-Contact Placements	
External 'Other' Placements	
Guidelines for Both Local and External Field Experiences/Activities	8
INTERNSHIP GUIDELINES.	
General Internship Guidelines	
Internship Requirements	
Internship Hours	
Internship Placements	
Documenting the Internship	
Internship Orientation	
Internship Assessment	
Dress Code for Internship	
Internship Dress Code for Men	
Internship Dress Code for Women Additional Information	
INTERNSHIP COURSE REQUIREMENTS	
Benchmark Assignments	
ROLES OF THE INTERN, MENTOR & SUPERVISOR	
Role of the Intern.	
Role of the Mentor	
Role of the University Supervisor	
DIFFERENTIATED ASSIGNMENTS	12
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)	
INTERVENTION PLAN	
Content Coursework	
Field Experience Coursework	
The Experience Course work	15

#### SOE LICENSURE RESOURCE COMMUNITY IN CANVAS

The School of Education provides a comprehensive Licensure Resource Community. All candidates pursuing licensure should have access to this resource in the Canvas dashboard where current courses are also found. If you do not see it on your dashboard, please contact an advisor to request access. Click this link to the <u>SOE Licensure Resource Community</u>.

## **CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

The mission of school administration and supervision programs at Liberty University is to develop competent professionals with a biblical worldview for Christian, public, and private schools. For more information, click on this link to the <u>School of Education Conceptual Framework</u>.

#### **PROGRAM SPECIALIST DEGREE**

#### **General Information: Program Specialist Degree**

The Reading and Math Specialist degree programs are Advanced Licensure programs. An initial teaching license is required before earning the program specialist degree. Applicants for the reading specialist program must have an initial teaching license in elementary, secondary, or special education. Applicants for the Math Specialist program must have a middle or secondary math teaching license.

Licensure as a reading or math program specialist is earned through the M.Ed. advanced licensure program or as an add-on to the Ed.S. or Ed.D. degree programs. The M.Ed. Program Specialist Degree requires 36 credit hours. Click on <u>Math Specialist</u> or <u>Reading Specialist</u> to view the degree completion plan and course sequence.

Teaching experience is not required for admission into the program. However, in order to earn a state license at the end of the program, the candidate must have finished three years of teaching experience in an accredited public or private school. These three years must have been in a position for which the teaching of reading was an important responsibility for Reading Specialist and the teaching of math was an important responsibility. One year of full-time teaching experience is required prior to the EDMS/EDRS 699 internship. If three years of full-time teaching experience are not completed by the end of the program, the degree will be conferred, but licensure will be delayed until the three years of teaching experience are completed.

The program requires a semester-long internship. Candidates enroll in EDMS/EDRS 699 Internship for Program Specialists. This course is completed at the end of the program of study. A total of 200 hours of field experience is required by the end of the internship.

For additional information, please refer to the Advising Guide for <u>Math Specialists</u> or <u>Reading</u> <u>Specialists</u>. You may also wish to consult the list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for <u>Math</u> <u>Specialist</u> or <u>Reading Specialists</u>.

#### **Routes to Licensure as a Program Specialist**

*Master of Education (M.Ed.) Math/Reading Specialist Endorsement:* The M.Ed. degree is the most commonly chosen licensure route for the math/reading specialist endorsement for those who have an initial teaching license.

Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT): Candidates who do not hold an initial teaching license can

enroll in the MAT program to earn an initial license in elementary, secondary, or special education. The extra courses for the Math/Reading Specialist endorsement can be added to the MAT program. However, the same requirements for teaching experience apply to the internship (1 year) and licensure (3 years).

*Education Specialist (Ed.S.) or Doctorate in Educational Leadership (Ed.D.):* Candidates who hold an initial teaching license and already have an earned master's degree can include the courses required for the Math/Reading Specialist Endorsement in the Ed.S. or Ed.D. degree plan.

# GATE SYSTEM

The School of Education (SOE) uses a Gate System to assist candidates in transitioning through different phases of the program. Candidates must pass through four gates during their program of study. Each gate is a checkpoint to ensure that candidates are ready to move to the next stage. At each of the Gates, assessment data are evaluated for advising individual candidates and for program improvement.

Gate 1: University Admission Gate 2: Program Status Check Gate 3: Admission to Internship Course Gate 4: Licensure Application and Program Completion

#### Gate 1: Admission to Liberty University

Candidates apply for admission to the Liberty University SOE Graduate Program and declare their major by choosing a specific Degree Completion Plan (DCP). Program specialist candidates select either the reading specialist or math specialist degree plan. Candidates planning to follow a graduate education program at Liberty University must meet the requirements for admission to the licensure program. Click this link for further details regarding <u>Admissions Requirements</u>.

#### Gate 2: Program Acceptance & Retention

Equally important to the admission requirements into the School of Education Licensure Program are those criteria which govern the maintenance of the candidate's status once entry is achieved. After accumulating 9 hours of graduate coursework credit, candidates apply for acceptance to their specific licensure program, namely the M.Ed. Reading Specialist or M.Ed. Math Specialist program. Below is a list of requirements for applying to Gate 2:

- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (Candidates who fall below the minimum will be dropped from the program.)
- Successful completion of 9 hours of coursework
- Proof of purchase of background check and acknowledgement of background check requirements
- Acknowledgement of FES requirements

Should any disqualifying difficulties arise, candidates are subject to dismissal from the program any time following initial acceptance until graduation. Candidates who have been removed from the program are eligible to reapply no sooner than one semester following the removal from the program. If approved, candidates may only be reinstated once. Candidates who experience academic or other types of difficulty are encouraged to seek assistance from the Graduate Writing Assistance Center, Academic Success Center, and/or Student Advocate Office before withdrawing from the program.

# **Gate 3: Internship Approval**

Candidates are encouraged to review the Graduate Advanced Licensure Gate 3 Application. The Field Placement Office has specific deadlines for submitting Gate 3 applications inorder to allow sufficient time for internship placements to be arranged. Some of the items needed for Gate 3 require advanced preparation. In order to be approved for Gate 3, candidates must comply with the requirements below:

- *Prerequisite License(s):* An initial teaching license is required.
- *Employment Experience:* Complete a Report on Experience Form verifying teaching experience. A minimum of one year of full-time contractual teaching experience is required prior to the internship. The teaching experience must be in a position in which teaching reading (reading specialists) or teaching math (math specialists) was an important responsibility. Three years of full-time contractual teaching are required before a candidate can apply for a Virginia Reading Specialist or Math Specialist license.
- *Degree Completion Plan:* All courses must be completed except EDUC 650 and EDUC 652. Both of these courses may be taken with the internship.
- Required Passing Test Scores
  - Math Specialists: Praxis II: Middle School Mathematics (5169) OR Praxis II: Math Content Knowledge (5161)
  - Reading Specialist: RVE for Reading Specialists (5304) for Virginia licensure.
- Plan for Placement
  - A total of 200 hours is required by program completion. Up to 100 hours may be completed prior to the internship.
  - A minimum of 100 hours must be completed during the internship.
  - A specific plan for placement must be included in the Gate 3 Application.
  - Summer internships can only be completed if the summer school calendar allows for a minimum of 100 hours to be completed while students are in the building for instruction.

# • Academic Requirements

- $\circ$  3.0 or higher GPA.
- No more than two grades of C may be applied to the degree (includes grades of C+ and C)
- No grade of D or below may be applied to the degree (includes grades of D+ and D-)

Once a candidate's Gate 3 Application is on probationary status or is fully accepted, the Gate 3 Office will send a formal placement request to the school on behalf of the candidate. Candidates are notified when placement has been confirmed. This notification will be sent to candidates via their Liberty University email.

# Gate 4: Degree Conferral & Licensure Recommendation

At the conclusion of the internship, candidates complete the graduation application, internship final checklist, and apply for their state license. For further details, click this link for <u>Gate 4</u> <u>Information</u>. The final checklist includes the following:

- Field Experience Summary
- Final Advanced Internship Assessment (AIA)
- Portfolio
- Reference Letters

- Resume
- Licensure Tests Score Reports
- Completion of required program surveys
- Child Abuse Prevention Training Certificate

*Licensure in States Other Than Virginia:* Candidates seeking licensure outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia are to review the licensure requirements for the state in which they plan to practice. Liberty University cannot advise candidates with regard to licensure in other states. However, LU's licensure office will prepare the College Verification Form upon successful completion of LU's program. In many states, the verification form is the only requirement for licensure. Candidates are encouraged to ask the following question of personnel from their state's department of education: "If I complete a Virginia state-approved program at Liberty University, what will I need to do to qualify for licensure in the state of \_\_\_\_\_?" For more information on licensure, please contact your state's Department of Education.

*Virginia Math/Reading Specialist Licensure:* The candidate must have successfully completed the Master of Education degree program. The candidate must hold an initial teaching license and have three years of successful, full-time experience in a public school or an accredited nonpublic school in which the teaching of reading/math was an important responsibility. Candidates must complete the <u>Virginia Licensure Application Form</u> and email it to <u>Gate4@liberty.edu</u>. Questions on licensure should be addressed to <u>SOElicensure@liberty.edu</u>.

# FIELD EXPERIENCES

The School of Education recognizes the importance of ongoing field experiences and requires that teacher candidates complete a variety of placements prior to the culminating internship. As such, field experiences are embedded in designated courses in each program. Field experiences are arranged through the Field Placement Office. It is each candidate's responsibility to provide transportation and to complete any background requirements for the assigned school system.

#### **Course-Embedded Field Experiences**

Throughout the program specialist degree, candidates complete course-embedded field experiences. Field experiences must include a variety of settings such as multiple grade levels, public/private schools, and interaction with diverse students. Early in the program, candidates should familiarize themselves with the various types of needed field experiences to ensure they can accrue the appropriate experiences in the required settings. Click this link for a list of Embedded Field Experiences.

#### **Documentation of Field Experiences**

Documentation of course-embedded field experiences for each candidate is maintained by the candidate in a cumulative field log, known as the Field Experience Summary (FES). Click this link to access a copy of the <u>FES</u>. Hours of field experience, in the candidate's program specialty area, accrued during the program at Liberty, can be counted toward the 200 hours of field experience required by the end of the internship. A maximum of 100 field placement hours can be logged prior to the internship. If a candidate is currently a teacher, hours teaching in the specialty area from his/her own classroom can be logged on the FES and counted toward the total 100 hours. Only hours completed during the program can be counted. The completed FES is submitted to the School of Education upon completion of the licensure program.

#### **Background Check**

Program specialist candidates are required to have a background check prior to participating in course-embedded field experiences and the internship. Upon enrollment in the program, candidates should complete the background check. This will allow time for the background check process to be completed prior to enrollment in courses that require field experiences. Click this link to order a Background Check.

#### Procedures for Coordinating Course-Embedded Field Experiences/Activities

There are three different categories of field placements at Liberty University. Each type has specific protocols to follow in arranging placements. Below are the general guidelines for LOCAL, EXTERNAL-NO CONTACT, and EXTERNAL-OTHER placements. Click this link to read a <u>complete description of placements</u>.

Placements in the LOCAL Area: Candidates in the LOCAL area must request ALL placements through the Field Office (fieldplacementoffice@liberty.edu) by Wednesday of WEEK ONE for courses which require a field experience. The local area consists of private and public schools within the following: Amherst County, Appomattox County, Bedford County, Botetourt County, Campbell County, Danville City, Lynchburg City, Nelson County, Pittsylvania County, Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Salem City and any other local private schools in this region. Assigned placements for field experiences will be made in one of these school systems. To request placement in one of these locations, the candidate should complete the Local Field Request Form and submit it to field@liberty.edu by the due date provided in the course. The Field Placement Office cannot make any guarantees based on preferences or special requests. It is imperative that candidates do not contact local schools (public or private) on their own to arrange field experiences even if they are friends with a particular teacher/principal. There are prearranged procedures for each local school system that the university's Field Placement Office must follow to ensure that Liberty candidates may continue to be placed in those systems in the future. The university must follow the proper protocol in order to keep these relationships positive. The candidate is responsible for fulfilling the field experience once it is confirmed by the school. The schedule will not be changed or canceled. Placement requests received after the Wednesday of Week One of the course will not be accepted.

*External No-Contact Placements:* Candidates seeking placement in school systems that have requested university contact only must request ALL placements through the Field Office (fieldplacementoffice@liberty.edu) by the due date provided in the course. You may find a list of school systems that require university only contact here. To request placement in one of these locations, the candidate should complete the External Request Form by the due date provided in the course. The Field Office cannot make any guarantees based on preferences or special requests. It is imperative that candidates do not contact these school systems on their own to arrange field experiences *even if* they are friends with a particular teacher/principal. There are prearranged procedures for each school system that the university's Field Placement Office must follow to ensure that Liberty candidates may continue to be placed in those systems in the future. The university must follow the proper protocol in order to keep these relationships positive. The candidate is responsible for fulfilling the field experience once it is confirmed by the school. The schedule will not be changed or canceled. Placement requests received after the due date in the course will not be accepted.

External 'Other' Placements: For external placements in school systems not identified on the

External No Contact List, the candidate is permitted to make the field placement arrangements directly with the school. Before making any arrangements, click this link to check the list in the document entitled <u>Field Experience Placement Groups and Schools Systems</u>.

#### Guidelines for Both Local and External Field Experiences/Activities

If, after the placement is secured, candidates decide, for whatever reason, that they do not want an established placement in that cooperating school/division, this decision may adversely impact Liberty's relationship with the school and division that has already made preparations for your internship. If the Field Placement Office must cancel a placement under these circumstances, the Field Placement Office will not make a new placement. The application deadline of Week One of the course only applies to course-embedded local field experiences.

#### **INTERNSHIP GUIDELINES**

#### **General Internship Guidelines**

The overall goal of the program specialist internship is to afford candidates an opportunity for hands-on practice with program specialist services under the supervision of a math/reading specialist within a school system. Candidates enroll in EDMS/EDRS 699, a 16-week course, as part of the internship. The internship may be completed during the fall, spring, or summer terms. Program specialist internship requirements at Liberty University meet the requirements for program specialist licensure for the State of Virginia. If candidates are seeking licensure in another state, they will need to check with that state for its requirements.

CAEP, one of Liberty University's accrediting bodies, clearly states in their supporting explanations for candidate development that *candidates are expected to study and practice in settings that include diverse populations, students with exceptionalities, and students of different ages. They are placed in clinical settings at grade levels and in the subjects or school roles (e.g., program specialist) for which they are preparing.* Candidates will document the various settings in the Field Experience Summary (FES), which will be submitted at the conclusion of the internship. Candidates who cannot complete the requirements of the internship as outlined in this handbook may take EDUC 696 Current Issues in Education and graduate from the non-licensure program.

Only candidates who are accepted into the program specialist licensure program will be granted an internship placement from the Field Placement Office. In addition, Internship placements will *only* be made in accredited schools with program specialists who are located on-site and who meet the on-site mentor requirements. Success of the internship program is dependent upon cooperation among the university, the school system, the mentor, and the candidate.

#### **Internship Requirements**

The following list describes the specific requirements of the internship placement:

- The *cooperating school* must be either a public school or an accredited private school.
- Candidates will have two supervisors during the internship: on-site mentor and Liberty University faculty member. The faculty member is normally the professor of EDMS/EDRS 699.
- The on-site mentor must hold a license in the program specialty area with a

minimum of three years of experience.

• The *university supervisor* must be employed by Liberty University and hold licensure as a program specialist.

#### **Internship Hours**

Program specialist candidates are required to complete 200 hours of field experience in order to meet the requirements of the program specialist degree. This includes all course-embedded field experience hours and internship hours. Up to 100 hours may be completed prior to the internship, but at least 100 hours must be completed during the internship semester. Only hours related to reading instruction (Reading Specialists) or math instruction (Math Specialists) may be counted toward the 200-hour requirement.

Liberty University Internship Requirements for the Program Specialist Degree			
Course	Setting	Requirements	
EDMS/EDRS 699-3 (3 hrs)		<i>Minimum</i> 200 cumulative hours of field experience by the end of the internship. One year of full-time	
Internship: Program Specialist	the program specialty area	teaching experience prior to the internship.	

### **Internship Placements**

The protocols for arranging an internship placement are similar to those described in the Field Experience section (see p. 12). There are specific guidelines for local and external placements. Candidates must apply for local placements through the Field Placement Office. External placements may be arranged by the candidate in partnership with the school system and LU's Field Office. Click this link to access <u>Application Deadlines</u> for internship placements.

Questions regarding internship placements should be directed to Gate 3 (gate3@liberty.edu). Click this link for details on <u>Gate 3 Requirements</u>. As part of Gate 3, internship requests are submitted to schools. It is the school's discretion to approve or not approve the request. The onsite mentor and school needs to be secured and approved by Gate 3 for placement prior to enrollment in EDMS/EDRS 699. Candidates need to ensure that the requested on-site mentor meets licensure requirements as specified by the program specialty area.

The program specialist intern is responsible for fulfilling the placement once it is confirmed by the school. While the intern and the on-site mentor may adjust the intern's schedule, the placements and time frames as submitted to the school division for initial approval will NOT be changed or canceled. Regardless of how the candidate structures the internship hours during the semester, the candidate must be enrolled in EDMS/EDRS 699 Internship for Program Specialists.

#### **Documenting the Internship**

Documentation of the internship and all other field experiences is *maintained by the candidate*. The candidate documents all hours on the Field Experience Summary (FES).

#### **Internship Orientation**

Interns, mentors, and university supervisors will attend an orientation/information session during the first week or two of the internship course. This is a time to discuss internship expectations and for interns to ask questions pertaining to the internship. The follow-up meeting will be arranged electronically via an online virtual meeting or a telephone conference call. Local Mentors may request an in-person site visit from the university supervisor if a face-to-face meeting is preferred. For external internships, the meeting will be arranged electronically via Microsoft Teams.

# **Internship Assessment**

Evaluation of intern performance is conducted by both the mentor and the university supervisor. The mentor will be the primary evaluator of intern performance regarding performance-based activities and dispositions. The university supervisor will be the primary evaluator of portfolio evidence and benchmark assessments. Benchmark assessments during the internship involve the following:

- Professional Development Workshop
- Case Studies
- Advanced Internship Assessment (AIA) Preliminary/Final
- Final Internship Assessment
- Professional Portfolio
- Field Experience Summary

The university supervisor will be notified as early as possible concerning any prospective deficiencies in meeting particular standards/competencies. A conference will be scheduled with the intern, university supervisor, and mentor to develop a written Intervention Plan. (See the Intervention Plan form at the end of this handbook). The intervention plan will include:

- Requirements that will be met by the intern in order to improve deficient performance (or an alternate plan for changing to a non-licensure track)
- Date of re-evaluation and person responsible for follow up
- Signatures: intern candidate, mentor, and university supervisor

# **Dress Code for Internship**

Liberty University trains students from all walks of life for many different professions and, most importantly, for serving as Champions for Christ. For this reason, Liberty University has established a standard of dress for the university community, which is conducive to a Christ-like environment. Cleanliness, neatness, appropriateness, and modesty are important as guiding factors. Students are expected to dress modestly at all times.

*Internship Dress Code for Men:* Neat slacks; dress shirt with tie or collared shirt, golf/polo shirt or turtleneck (all shirts must be tucked in; discreet logos acceptable, no large writing or logos); dress or dressy casual shoes (no sandal-type shoes or flip- flops), socks, no headgear (including hats, bandanas, etc).

*Internship Dress Code for Women:* Dresses, skirts, dress pants (no jeans of any color, no overalls, no capri/cropped pants, no shorts), sweaters and/or shirts (no sweatshirts, no writing or graphics on shirts except discreet embroidered logos), dress or dressy casual shoes (no tennis, athletic, sport shoes or flip-flops), no headgear (hats, bandanas, etc).

# **Additional Information**

Additional information and forms are available at the *Liberty University Graduate Advising Guide*. Click <u>here</u> to access.

# **INTERNSHIP COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Interns are required to complete all course assignments for the Internship (EDMS/EDRS 699) as outlined in the course syllabus.

## **Benchmark Assignments**

- Complete *case studies* as a major assignment for the internship. Identify two K-12 students at different grades and ability levels at placement site. Follow the instructions related to the case study assignment.
- Prepare and *present a professional development workshop for teachers* on a program topic of your choice at your placement site. Follow directions related to the workshop assignment.
- Complete and submit all assignments for the final *portfolio*. The portfolio details the program specialist candidate's experiences over the course of the program specialist degree and documents how the intern has met program specialist competencies. Candidates are encouraged to review the portfolio rubric when creating their portfolios. The portfolio is a reflection of candidates' content mastery and professional identity as a program specialist. It is an opportunity for candidates to showcase their best work and exemplify key knowledge, skills, and abilities as a practicing program specialist.

# **ROLES OF THE INTERN, MENTOR & SUPERVISOR**

# **Role of the Intern**

As a candidate from Liberty University, the intern is expected to uphold high moral and professional standards during the internship. Below are some general guidelines:

- Establish rapport with personnel of the school and/or district.
- Become acquainted with the facilities, materials, and policies of the school and/or district.
- Implement the mentor's and university supervisor's suggestions offered for professional growth.
- Complete all requirements in a timely fashion.
- Maintain professional appearance.
- Observe professional ethics.
- Conduct oneself in a professional manner, interacting professionally and effectively with all school and college personnel, parents, and with the community.
- Confer with the university supervisor and mentor as needed.
- Fulfill all duties required for assignment area, including personnel meetings, conferences, committee meetings, etc.
- Gradually assume greater responsibility throughout the duration of the internship.
- Maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality when discussing the specific needs of students.
- Promote and utilize research-based, best practices in reading/math instruction

• Refrain from attending overnight trips or activities requiring large expenditures

# **Role of the Mentor**

A significant aspect of the professional preparation of program specialists is actual on-the-job experience under the immediate supervision of a practicing program specialist. The internship is designed to provide such an experience. At the onset of the internship, the on-site mentor provides the intern with a tour of the school and an orientation to include:

- A tour of the facility
- Introduction to all staff
- History and mission of the school
- Office routines and regulations
- Hours of operation
- Sick policies
- Use of equipment
- Available clerical personnel
- Access to student records
- Record keeping policies/practices
- Observation of program specialist mentor and classroom(s). All observations are to becompleted with respect for student confidentiality and privacy. The intern should conduct 2-3 30-minute observations of their mentor teaching in the program specialist role.

The on-site mentor coordinates and supervises the following:

- Planning the internship projects with the candidate.
- Working with the intern to establish a work schedule, to identify goals, and to outline duties and responsibilities.
- Verifying at the conclusion of the internship that the candidate has completed the activities that were outlined in the guidelines.
- Evaluating the effectiveness with which the internship was accomplished.
- Complete the required internship assessments to provide the candidate with formal feedback.
- The mentor should observe the intern in the program specialist role 2-3 times throughout the duration of the internship.
- Contacting the university supervisor at the beginning of the internship and during the semester as needed.

# **Role of the University Supervisor**

The university supervisor serves as the primary point of contact for the on-site mentor and program specialist intern during the internship. The supervisor communicates with the on-site mentor and student via telephone, email, and/or virtual online meetings. For Schools local to the Liberty University campus, the university supervisor arranges at least one virtual, or in-person visit if requested, with the on-site mentor and intern.

# DIFFERENTIATED ASSIGNMENTS

Some courses within the program specialist degree are specifically designed for the math or reading specialist. Other courses in the degree plan are general in nature and are taken together with candidates enrolled in other graduate programs. Many of these courses will have differentiated assignments for the

program specialist. The differentiated assignments may be a separate assignment or may require that the candidate completes the course assignment from the perspective of the program specialist. Throughout the entire program, the program specialist candidate should seek to align coursework and projects with the unique role of the program specialist. Some of the differentiated assignments will be re-submitted in the final program portfolio.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

A list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for <u>Math Specialists</u> or <u>Reading Specialists</u> are available using the hyperlinks. The FAQ pages provide clarification to questions candidates often ask during the program. Candidates are encouraged to consult the list the FAQ pages when questions arise.

# **INTERVENTION PLAN**

# **Content Coursework**

For content coursework, instructors follow the Liberty University procedures for reporting academic misconduct to the <u>Student Affairs Office</u> via the <u>Academic Misconduct Incident Report</u>. For issues related to infractions of the SOE SCRIP dispositions, instructors may submit an Intervention Plan to the program director.

# **Field Experience Coursework**

For co-requisite practicum courses and for the culminating internship, on-site mentors or university supervisors are to notify the program director as early as possible upon anticipation of one of the outcomes below:

- Grade of NP, D, or F
- AIA assessment rating of Not Met for any of the professional standard indicators.
- SCRIP assessment rating of Not Met for any of the disposition indicators. (This would include knowledge of unethical or illegal activity.)

Liberty University reserves the right to require a plan of remediation if any of the following apply (The Liberty Way Student Honor Code):

- The student demonstrates unprofessional or unethical conduct while acting as a representative of Liberty University, or in interactions with Liberty University faculty or staff, or while participating in an internship, externship, or clinical experience for academic credit on or off campus.
- The university determines that the student's current emotional, mental, or physical well-being compromise the integrity of the degree or licensure, or potentially places a person in harm's way or an unduly vulnerable position.

When a remediation plan is required in a field experience, a *conference* should be scheduled with the candidate and Director of Student Success to develop an *intervention plan*. The plan outlines the requirements that must be met by the candidate during the field experience semester. The candidate and Director of Student Success must sign the plan.

If the candidate is removed from the field experience placement by request of either Liberty University School of Education or the K-12 host school:

- a new field placement to finish licensure requirements is NOT guaranteed;
- the candidate may need to change to a non-licensure track;
- the candidate may not receive credit for the field experience if they are removed from the placement at any point in the semester (even if the removal is at the end of the semester).

See the Intervention Plan Form below.

Intervention Plan				
Candidate Name:	Program Director Name:			
<b>ID# L</b> :				
On-Site Mentor Name:	University Instructor:			
Date of initial meeting				
Date of follow up meeting 1 (Required)				
Date of follow up meeting 2				
(Optional based on performance)				
Purpose of the intervention plan:				
Describe the overall nature of the concern:				
<ul> <li>List in bulleted format specific concerns. (Each concern must be supported with appendix documentation and must include the SCRIP Intervention Category: Social responsibility, Com):</li> <li>Concern 1:</li> <li>Concern 2:</li> </ul>				
Summarize the discussion during the intervention plan meeting:				
State the action(s) to be taken:				
Timetable for the intervention plan:				
Candidate Action Items:				
Candidate Consequences for Non-Compliance:				
Program Director Action Items to Support Candidate:				
Program Director and Candidate Discussion (Notes taken during the meeting):				
Signatures of Meeting Participants				
Candidate Signature:				
Program Director Signature:				
Other Participant Signature(s) and Role(s):				
Attach Appendices/Supporting Documentation				