**VSBPE**

**Date: April 19, 2022**

**Item:** **NVU Request for Out-of-State Student Teacher Placement Approval**

**ITEM:** Shall the VSBPE grant approval to NVU to place some of their student teachers out of Vermont for their student teaching internship?

**AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the VSBPE grant approval to NVU to place some of their student teachers out of Vermont for their student teaching internship.**

**BACKGROUND:**

The VSBPE has previously granted this same permission to UVM and Castleton. With the upcoming merger of NVU and Castleton, NVU is seeking to align their practices with those of Castleton, and to have the additional flexibility that this approval will provide.

**RATIONALE:**

NVU has aligned their request and processes for determining and managing out-of-state placements with Castleton’s already-approved request. Whereas Castleton is in close proximity to New York and may place some student teachers there, NVU-Lyndon is close to New Hampshire and seeks to take advantage of some placement opportunities there. Also, with the technology now available for remote observation and recording, the need for in-person observation is reduced.

# **Department Policy for Out of State Student Teaching Placements**

# **Northern Vermont University Teacher Licensure Programs**

March 31, 2022

Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators:

Northern Vermont University is requesting permission to utilize an out-of-state placement option for student teachers when their placements are difficult here in VT because of mentor teacher shortages or when circumstances suggest that a placement out-of-state is in the best interests of the student, the department, and/or the student’s family. We want this proposal to be developed to allow us to act more proactively to requests as they come and not reactively, at the last minute, when placements are suddenly unavailable.

Inspired by the recently approved Castleton University policy for out-of-state placement and further motivated by the upcoming merger of Castleton and NVU educator preparation programs, we request that you would consider approving the same policy for use at NVU. The proximity of Castleton’s program to potential host schools in New York is mirrored by NVU-Lyndon’s proximity to potential host schools in New Hampshire. As we work towards developing shared policies for the upcoming Vermont State University education programs, having this common practice in place would be helpful.

The policy outlined below is taken from the approved 2021 proposal by Castleton University and, if approved at NVU, it would ultimately be adopted by the unified Vermont State University Education Department in the fall 2023 semester:

The field experiences for all programs in the NVU Education Department’s licensure program are structured to align with Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) and Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) licensure requirements, particularly the Vermont Core Teaching Standards and the specific requirements of the endorsements being sought. We recommend education preparation candidates for licensure in one or more endorsement areas after the completion of all requirements, including their 13-week (minimum) full-time student teaching internship. This student-teaching internship is the capstone experience for all educator licensure programs at NVU. The semester-long experience provides the opportunity to link theoretical knowledge with practical experience while working with experienced professionals in the field.

Consideration for this internship requires successful completion of all program benchmarks as identified in our NVU handbooks.

**Eligibility for Out-of-State Internship**

The semester before internship, students must:

* Attend a student teaching orientation/overview
* Complete all required forms
* Demonstrate completion of all program benchmarks

**Successful completion of student teaching placement and licensure recommendation**

* Satisfactory scores on the midterm and final programmatic assessments (as determined by program supervisors)
* No significant concerns, with the majority of scores being “Satisfactory” on the final Professional Dispositions assessment
* Completion of 13 weeks of full-time teaching with a solo experience
* Satisfactory or higher scores on the summative assessment informed by the mentor teacher and university supervisor
* Grade of “B” or better
* Overall GPA of 3.0 or higher
* Passing scores on the Vermont Licensure Portfolio
* Passing scores on Praxis Core and Praxis content area exams

**Out of State/Distance Model**

* Candidates at NVU looking to student teach in another state will apply directly to the department chair.
* Mentor teachers in the requested state will be selected through the collaboration of the school districts in the local area where the student wishes to be located and the NVU Placement Coordinator. The candidate might suggest a site but final approval rests with the NVU Department Chair. Mentor teachers must meet the following criteria:
  + Licensed and endorsed in the area the candidate is seeking
  + 3 or more years of teaching experience in public PK-12 setting(s)
  + Approval and recommendation from their site administrator
  + Willingness to provide consistent, constructive feedback to the candidate
  + Preferable mentorship experience
  + Availability to attend all evaluative meetings scheduled by NVU and the ability to complete all evaluation documents.
* The NVU Education Department faculty will work with the candidate and site administration to determine if the placement is appropriate for the candidate.
  + Candidate/mentor teacher and NVU field supervisor will meet remotely with identified mentor to determine compatibility
  + Confirmation of the placement will occur when all parties agree
  + “Memorandum of Understanding” will be sent to the school district or agency from NVU to be signed by the appropriate parties
  + “Mutual Agreement” will be sent to the administration, mentor, and supervisor and signed to ensure the placement is confirmed
* Supervision
  + The candidate participating in a remote student teaching experience will be observed, at minimum, every 10 days to remain in compliance with Rule 5924.4.
  + Candidates may be observed by the mentor teacher utilizing the observation forms that are required and will provide feedback to the candidate in person or remotely.
  + Candidates may be observed by the NVU supervisor using remote platforms such as Swivel, Zoom or through videos submitted to the NVU supervisor for review.
  + Assessments currently being used for evaluation of candidate performance, program improvement, and accreditation will be completed as is the current practice.

Resources Used:

Castleton University Proposal: “Department Policy for Out of State Student Teaching Placements

Castleton University Teacher Licensure Programs”