

## Dominican Republic Student Teaching Program Information



Students completing the Elementary Education certification program who wish to student teach in an overseas setting, may find the perfect opportunity in the Dominican Republic. Hope College has established a relationship with the Doulos Discovery School in the Dominican Republic and is able to send student teachers there in both the Fall and Spring semesters. Students interested in this possibility should read on for further information:

### Information

- Students may secure information about the Dominican Republic student teaching experience by going to the Hope College Education Department website. Interested persons may also learn more about the Doulos Discovery School at: <http://www.doulosdiscovery.org/>

### Contacts

- Students interested in student teaching in the Dominican Republic, should contact Professor Nancy Cook, Director of Student Teaching, as early as possible, but no later than two semesters in advance of the student teaching placement. Information for application procedures will be reviewed and details about the program will be presented.

### Applications

- Students will complete **two application forms** – one for permission to *student teach off-campus* (Hope College Off-campus Application), and one for permission to *student teach* (Education Department's form).
  - The **Off-campus application form** is available through the Registrar's office, the Fried International Center on campus, or on-line.
    - When completing this application, care should be taken to construct a well-written rationale that outlines why an overseas student teaching placement will be more beneficial than a placement in west Michigan. Students should also connect the overseas experience with career aspirations and/or the need to be off-campus.
    - The student's faculty advisor should review the application before signing off on it.
  - The Hope College Education Department's **application for student teaching** is available on-line at: [http://www.hope.edu/academic/education/studteach/student\\_teaching\\_application.html](http://www.hope.edu/academic/education/studteach/student_teaching_application.html). Application forms will be discussed at mandatory meetings held on campus each semester prior to due dates.

### Deadlines

#### **For FALL semester student teaching placements:**

- **Off-Campus Application:**
  - **On or about February 1<sup>st</sup>:** Off-campus applications for the Fall semester are due to the Registrar on or about **February 1<sup>st</sup>**. *Double-check the International Education website for specific deadline information.*
- **Student Teaching Application-Education Department:**
  - **First Friday in December:** *(The specific date will be announced in a mandatory meeting two semesters prior to student teaching.)* Education Department Student Teaching Applications are due the **first Friday in December** for student teaching placements the following Fall semester. Students should note their preference to student teach in the Dominican Republic on the application.

#### **For SPRING semester student teaching placements:**

- **Off-Campus Application:**
  - **On or about March 25<sup>th</sup>:** Off-campus applications for the Spring semester are due to the Registrar on or about **March 25<sup>th</sup>**. Permission to leave campus for the Spring semester is limited. *Double-check the International Education website for specific deadline information.*
- **Student Teaching Application-Education Department:**
  - **First Friday in April:** *(The specific date will be announced in a mandatory meeting two semesters prior to student teaching.)* Education Department Student Teaching Applications for the following Spring semester are due by the **first Friday in April**.

Students should note their preference to student teach in the Dominican Republic on the application.

**Approvals:** Because the off-campus student teacher is at some additional risk, the Education Department carefully screens each student teacher who desires an off-campus student teaching experience. Candidates must be in good standing and have exhibited strong professional skills and dispositions in all coursework and field experiences. In addition, the Doulos Discovery School holds the right to screen potential student teachers and reject a student teaching candidate if deemed appropriate.

- In order to student teach in the Dominican Republic or any other off-campus placement, students must receive approval at several levels. First, the student must be approved to be **off-campus** for a semester by the Registrar's office. Second, the student must meet all **Education Department** requirements and specifically receive an endorsement to be off-campus from the Department as a whole. Finally, the student must earn a positive (Highly Recommended or Recommended) endorsement from his/her **major department** of study.
- As noted above, the student must complete an off-campus application and receive permission to be off-campus during the requested semester. The student must remain in good standing in order to maintain this permission.
- The Education Department must also approve an off-campus student teaching placement. Approvals typically take place the semester prior to the student teaching experience, but remain contingent upon consistent demonstration of positive professional and personal dispositions, as well as successful performance in Education coursework *and* field placements up to the point of student teaching. Any student who fails to meet all performance requirements (e.g., minimum of C+ or higher in Education courses) *and/or* fails to receive a positive endorsement (e.g., "Highly Recommended" or "Recommended") from field placement mentors, will not be allowed to student teach off-campus.
- In addition, student teachers must receive a positive endorsement from his/her major department of study. Again, failure to secure a positive recommendation from the major department of study will result in a denial to student teach off-campus.
- Students who have been approved to student teach on probationary status will not be allowed to student teach in an off-campus placement, including in the Dominican Republic.

### **Orientation**

- The Doulos Discovery School provides an on-site orientation program upon arrival for the semester's experience. During this time, students become acclimated to the placement, meet other student teachers and pertinent personnel, and secure housing for the semester.

### **Dates of Placements**

- Fall semester student teachers (through the Fall 2011 semester) may begin the semester on-campus *or* in the Dominican Republic, depending on course requirements. Some students may opt to be on Hope's campus for the first five (5) weeks of the semester in order to take EDUC 500-Perspectives in Education as well as a Senior Seminar course. They then begin their student teaching experience no later than Wednesday of the following week. However, for student teachers who opt to take EDUC 500 as an independent study and complete the Senior Seminar requirement during a different semester, the student teaching experience could start on the beginning date for the placement's school, likely in late August or early September. In this case, students should plan to arrive at the placement earlier than this start date in order to become acclimated to the setting. The placement extends for a minimum of 12 weeks through the Fall 2011 semester. Placements beginning Spring 2012 will no longer have the option of taking 5-week courses during the student teaching semester. Students planning to student teach in the Dominican Republic from Spring 2012 and beyond should plan to be in the Dominican Republic for the entire semester.
- Spring semester student teachers (through the Spring 2011 semester) may begin the semester on-campus *or* in the Dominican Republic, depending on course requirements. Some students may opt to be on Hope's campus for the first five (5) weeks of the semester in order to take EDUC 500-Perspectives in Education as well as a Senior Seminar course. They then begin their student teaching experience no later than Wednesday of the following week. However, for student teachers who opt to take EDUC 500 as an independent study and complete the Senior Seminar requirement during a different semester, the student teaching experience could start on the beginning date for the semester, likely in early-to-mid January. In this case, students should plan to arrive at the placement earlier than this start date in order to become acclimated to the setting. The placement extends for a minimum of 12 through the Spring 2011 semester. Placements beginning Spring 2012 will no longer have the option of taking 5-week courses during the student teaching semester. Students planning to student teach in the Dominican Republic from Spring 2012 and beyond should plan to be there for the entire semester.

### **Priority for Placements**

- Due to constraints placed on student teaching placements for students completing the Secondary Education certification program, only students completing the Elementary Education certification program are eligible to student teach in the Dominican Republic.
- Special Education majors may consider the Dominican Republic student teaching option during either semester (Fall or Spring). (During the Fall semester, the student teacher would be on Hope's campus for the first five weeks in order to take required courses that are only offered during the Fall semester. He/She would then travel to the Dominican Republic to complete the student teaching assignment.)

### **Student Teaching Seminar/Assignments**

- Students seeking off-campus student teaching placements **must** attend designated sessions of the Monday evening student teaching seminars during the previous semester. A calendar with the required sessions will be available on the Education Department's website or directly from Professor Nancy Cook, Director of Student Teaching.
- The Dominican Republic student teacher should plan to attend regularly scheduled meetings throughout the student teaching semester with his/her university supervisor. This may vary from placement to placement.
- The Dominican Republic student teacher should plan to hand in **required ST seminar assignments** over the course of the student teaching semester.
  - **Weekly written reflections** will be submitted online to the student's university supervisor and/or the Director of Student Teaching.
  - A **written, midterm self-evaluation** of the student teacher's performance will be submitted electronically to the student's university supervisor.
  - A **simulated interview** should be arranged with the building principal. The ST should provide a copy of the rubric (available online on the Education Department website) to the principal and submit the scored rubric to the Director of Student Teaching at Hope. This should be done no later than the final week of the student teaching experience.
  - The **professional portfolio** should be submitted to the university supervisor no later than the final week of the student teaching placement for evaluation and scoring. The scored rubric should then be submitted to the Director of Student Teaching no later than the end of the student teaching experience.
  - All student teachers are required to prepare and teach at least one **unit of study** during the student teaching placement. The unit should be submitted to the college supervisor no later than the last Monday of the placement. A scoring rubric is available for the college supervisor's use.
  - The **Special Education Pre-referral Process assignment** should be submitted electronically to the Director of Student Teaching at Hope by the published due date. The assignment description is available from the Director of Student Teaching and should be secured prior to leaving campus.

### **Coursework Completion**

- The student teacher will need to have most, if not all, required coursework completed prior to leaving campus for the student teaching placement. This means that the student teacher will have completed his/her Elementary Education coursework, at least 90% of the coursework in the major and/or minor area of study and the Senior Seminar requirement (unless planning to take this course upon his/her return). The EDUC 500-Perspectives in Education course may be taken the semester prior or as an independent study while student teaching.

### **EDUC 500-“Perspectives in Education”**

This is a required course for ALL students in the Teacher Education Program at Hope. The course may be completed in one of two ways:

- Student teachers may take EDUC 500 as an independent study, meeting with the course instructor during the previous semester and/or over the summer. Students can complete course requirements either prior to leaving or during the student teaching semester. Students must earn a C+ or higher in this course.
- It is also possible for the student teacher to complete EDUC 500 in the five-week course format the semester prior to the student teaching semester (through Fall 2011). This would require having time available MWF, mornings or afternoons during that semester and permission of the course instructor.

### Senior Seminar

- The senior seminar cannot be completed as noted above for EDUC 500. It must either be completed prior to leaving for the student teaching experience or the semester after the student teaching placement.
  - If the student teacher wishes to complete it prior to leaving campus or upon his/her return, he/she may enroll in the 5-week course offerings (through Fall 2011) *or* in any full-semester senior seminar (any 450 level IDS course). The Senior Seminar requirement can also be met in a number of off-campus programs (e.g.-Vienna Summer School). In any case, the senior seminar may be completed prior to leaving or upon return from the student teaching experience.

### Registration

- Students should register for IDS747-02 for 10-13 credit hours, depending on what courses are to be taken while student teaching. At a minimum, the student teacher will need to enroll for 9 credits of student teaching and 1 credit for the Student Teaching Seminar. Hope's Registrar will then work out the details for student teaching and the EDUC 500 credits if that course is to be included. NOTE: Credit allotments will change with the Spring 2012 semester.

### Certification Requirements

- The student teacher should plan to be in contact with the Director of Student Teaching and particularly with Cher Schairer, Director of Certification, throughout the semester prior to student teaching in order to submit appropriate materials for certification in a timely and accurate manner. All certification materials must be submitted PRIOR to leaving campus, unless the student teacher plans to return to Hope after the student teaching Semester.

### Housing

- The principal of the Doulos Discovery School will work with the student teacher to secure housing. This will likely be with a local family. Being conversant in the Spanish language is recommended.

### TB Test/Other Immunizations

- Student teachers may be required to provide proof of a current, negative TB test to the administration at the Doulos Discovery School at the beginning of the student teaching experience. Additional immunizations may also be required.

### Criminal Background Check

- Students will need to submit to a criminal background clearance and an FBI background check prior to beginning the student teaching experience. The student should begin this process midway through the semester prior to the scheduled student teaching semester. Information on the fingerprinting process will be shared at the mandatory student teaching meetings the semester prior to student teaching. Students who have had convictions (misdemeanors and/or felonies) within the past seven years may not be allowed to student teach in an off-campus location.

### Tuition Waivers/Financial Aid

- Students who are eligible for tuition waivers should check with the Financial Aid Office prior to committing to an overseas placement.

### Expectations

- As always, it will be important for the student teacher to remember that permission to student teach in an off-campus placement is a ***privilege, not a right***. The student must at all times be cognizant that he/she is representing Hope College while in this placement. Therefore, expectations for professional behavior, dress and conduct remain high and are maintained for all student teachers, but particularly for those in an off-campus placement.

Revised-January 7, 2011