

Mid-Program Candidate Feedback

Pre-Internship Block

Course(s): ED 411/511, ED 444/544, ED 445/545, ED 446/546, ED 448/548

Fall, 2019

f = frequency of the responses

List those things that you perceive as strengths or aspects of your degree program that are most valuable to you.	<i>f</i>
<p>Classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field trips. • AMSTI training. • Practice with lesson planning. • Resources that we can use in the classroom (websites, centers, etc.) • Good instruction. • Informative. • Helpful with lesson plans. • Lesson plans. • Informative. • Updated lesson plan template. • AMSTI training. • Lesson plan template. • I have really grown in ELA & Math/Science this year! I feel so much more prepared to be in the classroom. • Lesson plans/assignments. • Resources – both presented in class/field trips and on Canvas. • Strong and focused content (not just filler classes) • Purposeful field trips. • Clear directions for assignments ☺. • Work load wasn't that bad. • Clear directions. • AMSTI training. • Access to resources. • Technology Integration. • Lots of good resources given by all professors. • AMSTI training was very valuable. • Field trip to Hoover ES/Library – very informative. • I feel prepared to write lesson plans, particularly ELA. • I like all my textbooks, very useful. • AMSTI training was valuable. • Advice/stories from teachers and/or professors about their personal experiences in the classroom. • Learning more about content and teaching strategies. • Hands on, great field trips, and constant preparation for future teaching. • Hands on experience. • Walk through of lessons. • Practice teaching lessons. • All resources. • Many hands-on activities. • Great trips for the future classroom. • AMSTI training. 	<p align="center">25</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field trips. • Reading/ELA classes. • Science & Math classes. • We have a lot of resources given to us. • Several opportunities to engage in hands on activities. • Exposed to several great resources. • Amount of resources provided in each class. • More lesson plans to write. • Hands on experiences. • Purposeful assignments. • Lesson planning workshops for each subject area. • Hands on activities and practical classroom tips. • The hands on portions of the reading, Math, and science. • The hands on portion of reading, Math, and science. • Lesson planning workshops. 	
<p>Professors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professors are easy to work with. • Caring teachers. • Great communication. • Professors actually care. • Smajic and Gilmore both do a phenomenal job of making learning content engaging and fun! They have both provided great resources and insight into our future career. • The professors are easy to work with. • Experienced professors. • Professor response rate to email communication. We mostly know what is expected. I think the professors have done well to work content into a compressed semester. • Fun professors who <u>care</u>. • We have any help where needed. • Communication is good. • Care for student success. • Quality instruction. • The professors of English, Math and science were passionate, explained everything well, and I feel prepared. 	12
<p>Placements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spending time in schools. • I love all the time we get in the classroom. 	2
<p>List those things that you perceive as growth areas or specific ways in which your degree program could be improved.</p>	<i>f</i>
<p>Classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More opportunities for feedback. • More structure for the Social Studies course. • Less field trips. • Class meetings that are pointless (bypass time). • Class all day on T/TH instead of everyday. • Five days a week. • Less field trips or closer to campus. • Better organized social studies course. • AMSTI training spread out (not 2 consecutive weeks). • Organized Social Studies course 	19

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less field trips/driving. I did not go to a Birmingham school or another university because of location. It is a bit much traveling. • The history class needs some structure. Most of the meetings seemed to be a waste of valuable time. It felt as if the teacher was using content that was not readily familiar to her, and I wish she would have made the class her own as that she wasn't so confused. • History class was horrible. I felt nothing related. • The social studies course has been disorganized, confusing, overall disappointing. The professor is very nice but unprepared to teach this course. • ED 444 is a little disorganized – expectations for assignments unclear. • Social studies need major work, as it provides no value in content or teaching practices. • Be more mindful of how much driving is required for field trips. • One area I would like to see growth in is the history class. I feel under prepared for lab in this subject. • History needs more organization to lessons. They often feel scattered and I feel like I've learned nothing I can teach in my classroom. • For Social Studies, the teacher is a wonderful person...but I have not felt as if we gained as much from that course as the others...need more guidance there. • Social Studies – need a professor who knows more about lesson planning. • I need more guidance in the Social Studies course. I in no way feel ready to write a Social Studies lesson. • Less field trips that are 40+ miles from campus. • More time in class learning content. • Having Friday off lab for make-up days. • Teaching Social Studies needs to be reevaluated to suit teaching style of professor. • The history course needs to be instructed and prepared. I do NOT feel prepared to write or teach a history lesson. • Social Studies course needs to be reevaluated and significant changes are needed. • Travel is expensive! Lots of off campus meetings (Field trip that cost money/gas). 	
<p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication of requirements and progress to next block could be much better; no one tells us when they change tests we need to take or other things we need to do until we get a letter one month before everything is due. • More info available about what you need to graduate/move on in the program. • Better communication about requirements and test to be completed (dates) – been receiving a variety of answers, still no clue. • Better communication regarding requirements and tests (Praxis). We have received a variety of different answers regarding these items. Even now we are still unsure. • I wish we could have been more prepared for Praxis tests, or told to do them over the summer. Lots of students had a very hard time balancing getting the tests done without missing school. • More info on Praxis testing. • Information being relayed – ex: we have always been told we have until internship to take our Praxis tests, now it's due November 1 leaving a time crunch. We weren't told that until last minute. • Information regarding when tests had to be completed prior to internship could have been communicated more clearly. • More communication about Praxis, and placement. • More communication from professors to students (Praxis changes, etc.) • More information available and more discussions about Praxis test times, requirements, etc. 	14

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praxis exam dates and test number changes need to be clearly stated. • There needs to be a better warning and due dates for the Praxis exams. • Praxis due dates and test numbers need to be <u>clearly</u> stated rather than conveyed solely in a letter. 	
<p>Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ease up on having proof when there is just one day missed. I cannot afford to pay a \$25 dollar copay for an excuse when sick. • I feel like we could have used some of the methods, content, and strategies learned during this block during LAST block, Methods Block. I don't know if it's just part of the process, but I felt pretty clueless at times during Methods! • We should have taken a week break between AMSTIs, the back to back weeks were pretty taxing. 	3
<p>Peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have been frustrated by some of my peers lack of interest in some material and only focusing on passing. I am disappointed in how often my peers fail and must retake Praxis tests. 	1
Please rate your level of satisfaction with the overall quality of your program.	<i>f</i>
Very Satisfied	6
Satisfied	18
Neutral	2
Unsatisfied	0
Very Unsatisfied	0

Additional Comments:

Be mindful of where you make us go on “field trips”; people who already have a long drive to campus have an even longer drive to get to some places.

Is it necessary for us to have to pay for field trips?

Have fewer field trips.

Gilmore’s class should be taught during methods block. We could’ve taken the Praxis during the summer.

Teaching reading to be taken during methods so we’re prepared for that Praxis early on.

Overall I have enjoyed the program. However, the Praxis tests are a lot. They are pushed on us at the last moment (semester). Would appreciate more placement options for commuters.

I still feel very unprepared for Social Studies. I don’t think we have gotten lots accomplished, and there is lots of confusion surrounding the course.

I feel absolutely lost in the Social Studies course.

I love this program overall and I have enjoyed it. I do feel there needs to be more direct instructions on things to complete before internship (Praxis, unfinished courses, TB tests, etc.) because deadlines were unclear to some of my classmates. We were always told the requirements needed to be completed before internship, but were then told by November 1st.

AMSTI was good but was a very boring experience as well. It was a lot to sit and barely do anything but get talked at for 6+ hours for so many days. Too many far field trips and ones we pay for.

More communication about the Praxis exams before this semester. We were blindsided by the due dates. More communication about lab requirements prior to Oct.

6 hours of class on days is way too much.

There have been challenges with the content delivery in our teaching Social Studies class. Expectations are vague the majority of the class is frustrated with much of this course's content. Lack of edTPA understanding is an opportunity.

Sometimes I think we could use a bit more positivity and encouragement – from our program and professors, or praise. We do a lot of work, and for free.

I feel like field trips should be free and close to campus.

Please make sure field trips are not on Holidays. Also, field trips need to not be in Birmingham at 9:00 am.

More communication between professors and students. (Maybe class meeting on dates/expectations)

Please communicate how important take Praxis tests BEFORE this block is. Many of us waited and are now overwhelmed with the early deadline.

Social Studies is a little tough this semester, I understand the situation though.

Please communicate Praxis information with us. Additionally, please let us know FAR in advance that the deadline for prerequisites going into internship has changed. It's not fair to those who waited thinking they would gain something from taking these courses, then taking the tests.

All professors need to be ready to teach. Social Studies has not been good or really helpful because the professor is not prepared and does not understand how to do things (lesson plans, etc.)

I enjoy field trips, but I also feel that the amount we had this year was slightly excessive. I work in addition to going to school and the added stress of getting to and from has been a lot for me.

Consideration should be given to gas and travel time when planning field trips.

Field trips should be free or if they cost money they should be optional.

I have loved the reading, Math, and science courses! I would say I am very satisfied by how they have been taught as well as how they have prepared me for teaching in my own classroom. I unfortunately cannot say the same of the Social Studies course.

If a field trip cost money and runs significantly longer than class time and requires a long drive it should be optional.