

## BIO 195T: TEACHING INTERNSHIP

### COURSE INFORMATION:

**Instructor:** Dr. Kelly McDonald  
Office: Humboldt 211C, 916-278-5836  
Email: Please email me through SacCT

**Office Hours:** Wed 2:00-3:30 pm  
Thurs 3:00-4:30 pm  
Location of office hours: Sequoia 339

### Course Description:

Bio 195T is a service learning opportunity for biology majors and minors interested in pursuing a career in K-12 science teaching. It is an elective, stand-alone field experience that is not embedded or linked to another course. Students are placed in the classrooms of partnering schools under the supervision of an experienced science teacher. Students receive 1 unit of upper division credit for 40 hours of work; at least 30 hours must be in the classroom. The additional hours can be spent on classroom preparation, reflective journaling, and meeting with the supervising teacher (at the placement school) and the Bio 195T course coordinator (in the Department of Biological Sciences).

### Expected Student Learning Outcomes:

- Through this course, you will gain authentic experience in a middle or high school science classroom, which will help inform your decision and better prepare you to pursue teaching as a career.
- Through this course, you will participate in a civic engagement/service learning experience. **Service Learning** is defined as "A teaching method that promotes student learning through active participation in meaningful and planned service experiences in the community that are directly related to course content." *The CSU Office of the Chancellor, Center for Community Engagement*. Your "course content" is the collection of knowledge and skills learned through your biology degree program. **Civic Engagement** is defined as "working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference." Excerpt from the preface of *Civic Responsibility and Higher Education*, edited by Tomas Ehrlich, published by Oryx Press, 2000.

Through interview, journal and essay:

Students will be able to describe their experiences in a middle or high school science classroom.

Students will demonstrate an understanding of their civic engagement through the service learning experience (the definitions of service learning and civic engagement are described).

Bio 195T is a service learning opportunity for biology majors and minors interested in exploring a career in K-12 science teaching. It is an elective, stand-alone field experience that is not embedded or linked to another course. As a result, students will apply knowledge accumulated throughout their degree programs. Through this course, students will gain authentic experience in a middle or high school science classroom, which will help inform their career decisions and promote the development of their civic identities.

### Course Websites:

All course materials and communication outside of class will be disseminated via SacCT. **Please get in the habit of checking SacCT for emails and announcements on a regular basis.**

### Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for the 195T internship, but it is recommended that you complete at least some of your core biology, chemistry and physics courses before participating in this service learning experience. This will make it easier for you to assist in a variety of middle school and high school classrooms.

### Pre-Internship Requirements (Things to do before starting your fieldwork!):

- Complete the CSUS online orientation. You must complete this through SacCT at a campus computer before beginning your fieldwork. You will need to print:
  - the last page of the orientation.
  - the time log – use this to record your hours during the semester. This will be signed by your teacher mentor and turned in to me at the end of the semester
  - the Emergency Form – provide this to your teacher mentor at your placement site.
- Complete an orientation at your placement site (the school in which you will be working). This may be a formal orientation or an informal meeting with your mentoring teacher or office staff.
- You may need to have a TB test (this is free through the CSUS Wellness Center) and get fingerprinted before starting your fieldwork. Each school site has its own requirements, so this will be communicated to you when you are assigned to your school.

### Course Requirements:

- You will need to perform 40 hours of work for 1 unit of credit, with at least 30 hours in the classroom. **Note:** The CSUS Teacher Credential Program requires 45 hours of fieldwork, so you will meet this requirement with only a few additional hours.
- You will need to keep a journal recording your observations, challenges, ideas, etc. You need to write at least one entry per week. This will be turned in to me at the end of the semester.
- You will need to meet with me at least two times during the semester to discuss your progress. This can be during my office hours or by appointment.
- You will need to complete a reflective essay (minimum of 3 pages) from a prompt provided to you at the end of the semester.

### Grading Policy:

You will be evaluated based on your ability to successfully complete the course requirements. This course is graded as credit/no credit. Note that a maximum of 2 units of 195T (or any 190 course) can count toward upper division units. Please contact me immediately if you are having problems at your placement site, so that your grade is not impacted. Furthermore, we want this to be a wonderful experience for you, the teacher you are assisting and the students you are working with.

### Partnering Schools:

Grant High School (Twin Rivers Unified)

Sheldon High School (Elk Grove Unified)

Dixon High School (Dixon Unified School District)

Hiram Johnson High School – West Campus (Sacramento City Unified)

Sutter Middle School (Sacramento City Unified)