

FREDONIA-HAMBURG TEACHER EDUCATION CENTER

National Award Winning Program began 40 years ago

Offered to Childhood, Childhood Inclusive, Early Childhood and Early Childhood/Childhood Education Majors.

Mission

The Fredonia-Hamburg Education Center was developed cooperatively by SUNY Fredonia and the Hamburg Central School District to provide a year-long professional year experience for seniors pursuing NYS certification in Education. The program is field-centered, competency based and offers a combination of methods and teaching in a full year internship in the Hamburg Central Schools. This co-constructed program is mutually beneficial to the district and the university as it aims to improve P-12 learning and improves candidate preparation. Mutually agreeable expectations for candidacy entry, preparation and exit, ensure the linkage of theory to practice.

Steering Committee

This co-constructed program is mutually beneficial to the Hamburg District and the College of Education. Monthly Steering Committee Meetings take place in Hamburg. It operates through a consensus model of decision-making and is responsible for recommending all major decisions for the Center. The committee is comprised of a college representative, a teacher acting as program coordinator, a teacher representative from each of the 5 buildings, an administrator representative, a union representative and a SUNY Fredonia student representative.

Nationally Recognized

The Fredonia-Hamburg Teacher Education Center received the 1985 Distinguished Program in Teacher Education Award presented by the National Association of Teacher Educators. In addition the district has received two Teacher Education of the Year Awards from the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE).

History

During the spring and summer of 1972, Fredonia Professors and Hamburg staff members met to share educational philosophies and form the basis for specifying desired competencies for teacher education. The first year of operation, 1972-73 was a year of continual evaluation by Center personnel and members of the Teacher Education Research Center.

Using research results and participant evaluations, a workshop took place in August 1973 to make major changes in competencies and criteria, modify timing and procedures, and determine processes for evaluation of competencies and integration of methods and classroom participation. In 1979, the competency package was again subjected to major changes by a team of interns, cooperating teachers and college staff members. The refinement and revision process continues each year through the efforts of the Steering Committee.

Linking Theory to Practice

It is recommended that you take all 5 Methods Courses in Hamburg during the fall semester. These courses occur in Hamburg and are taught by faculty from Fredonia Faculty and internship assignments are with highly qualified teachers in the Hamburg Central Schools. This program offers a "theory to practice" experience, where instruction in learning how to teach is combined with classroom experience. This takes place in the first 16-week Internship and is followed by a 2nd and 3rd nine-week Internship. These are full time classroom experiences with supervision and advisement being done by the college supervisors from the Fredonia who were Hamburg teachers or administrators.

Reasons to Do the Fredonia-Hamburg Program

1. 32-week Internship consisting of 3 classroom experiences
2. Five Competency Areas are explored: Concerns for Individuality, Human Relations, Decision Making, Content Skills and Techniques and Philosophical Position
3. Performance-based assessment continues throughout the experiences
4. Integration of theory and practice throughout the fall semester using what you learn in methods immediately
5. Extended knowledge of school curriculum and procedures
6. Prolonged interaction with children, other candidates, and professionals
7. Opportunities for experiences in 7 or 8th grade (if seeking middle school extension)
8. All Methods classes taught in Hamburg by Fredonia faculty & Monthly Mentor Meetings with Program Coordinator
9. Fredonia and Hamburg faculty supervise classroom instruction
10. Interviewing and hiring possibilities – 35 former interns are employed in the Hamburg district
11. Opportunity to visit the district and meet the Steering Committee during the application period.
12. An intern is a member of the Steering Committee, giving participants an active voice

Housing

Interns are not required to live in Erie County. A housing list is available to assist in obtaining housing.