

GAANN FELLOWSHIP STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

University of Northern Colorado, School of Biological Sciences

Personal information

Last name: _____ First name: _____ Initial: _____

Bear #: _____ E-mail address: _____

Office telephone: _____ Home telephone: _____

Mobile telephone: _____

As a GAANN fellow, I understand the following:

- The commitment to me of a GAANN fellowship is to support my pursuit of a doctoral degree in Biological Education.
- The award to me of a GAANN fellowship is recognition of my outstanding academic and scholastic achievement and potential, and that the continuation of that award to me is dependent upon my continued outstanding achievement throughout all aspects of my graduate work; my failure in this regard may result in discontinuation of all fellowship commitments that have been made to me.
- The pursuit of a Ph.D. degree is not equivalent to a job; the effort that I will direct toward the completion of my program will require extraordinary commitment which will in all likelihood exceed 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year, and will include time spent on weekends and holidays; official vacation time is not expected.
- The fellowship stipend shall be based on my financial need which cannot exceed \$30,000 per year.
- I cannot be otherwise gainfully employed while receiving the GAANN award other than part time employment involved in teaching, research, or similar activities determined by the School of Biological Sciences, UNC, to be in support of my progress toward a degree.
- In my first semester as a doctoral student, I shall conduct a two 7-8 week-long laboratory rotations (BIO 622) which will provide different research experiences under the direction of different faculty advisors.
- I shall attend and participate in Graduate Roundtables (BIO 691) each semester.
- I shall attend and participate in the Graduate Seminars (BIO 691) each semester.
- The research portion of my graduate program shall be in a content area of biology.
- I am required to submit an annual report summarizing my progress toward the doctoral degree.
- I will be evaluated annually by the faculty of the School of Biological Sciences.
- I shall comply with the requirements of the School's doctoral program in addition to the GAANN program requirements; in the case of a conflict, GAANN requirement will take precedence. I will conduct my supervised teaching experience as outlined in appendix 1.

Signature

Date

Appendix 1: The Supervised Teaching Experience for GAANN Fellows

I. Supervised training in instruction

Supervised teaching is an integral component of the current Ph.D. program in the School of Biological Sciences. Doctoral supervised teaching is considered a “culminating” experience of the Ph.D. program, and the experience is formalized as a required graduate course (BIO 792, Doctoral Supervised Teaching) that includes one semester of course preparation for the teaching experience and one semester of supervised teaching for a total of 4-6 hours of graduate credit. To maximize the training experience, most of the prerequisites for the Ph.D. degree must be completed before the student undertakes the supervised teaching experience.

A. Prior to engaging in the supervised teaching experience, doctoral students must have completed the following series of preparatory prerequisites:

1. Establishment of a Program Advisory Committee and filing of approved plan of study with the Graduate School
2. Completion of at least 36 semester hours with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher
3. Completion of at least 5 semester hours of pedagogy elective courses
4. Completion of at least 5 semester hours of content elective courses in the area of the course selected for teaching
5. Passing the written preliminary examinations
6. Passing the oral preliminary examination
7. Completion of at least two semesters of TA experience in a biology area (or other approved college/university biology teaching experience) at the University of Northern Colorado or another accredited institution.

II. Instruction on effective teaching techniques:

Prior to the supervised teaching experience, students in the Ph.D. program are trained in pedagogy through course work as well as through practical experience during their Teaching Assistantship experiences. Students must have completed at least two semesters of Teaching Assistantship experience in a biology area (or other approved college/university biology teaching experience) at the University of Northern Colorado or another accredited institution. Moreover, the following requirements apply.

A. A minimum of 11 credit hours of pedagogical course work must have been completed from among the following courses taught by biology and education faculty:

1. SCED 678 Science Education seminar
2. SCED 680 Science Curricula in Secondary/College Settings
3. EPSY 540 Theories and Principles of Learning
4. SCI 591 Computer Applications in Science
5. BIO 691 Seminar in Biological Sciences.

B. Other elective courses that are encouraged include:

1. BIO 512 TA Development Seminar
2. BIO 571 Teaching Strategies for Biology Teachers

C. Additional training for the supervised teaching experience is formalized through two consecutive semesters of enrollment in BIO 792 (Doctoral Supervised Teaching) with close consultation and supervision by the Graduate Advisor and Instructor of Record for the chosen course, and consultation with the student's Program Advisory Committee. Requirements of the student are as

follows, and need to be initiated at least two semesters prior to the supervised teaching experience:

1. Preparation of a list of personal goals and courses in which those goals might be attained
2. Discussion of the student's personal goals with their Graduate Advisor
3. Discussion of the student's personal goals at a meeting of the Program Advisory Committee
4. Discussion of the student's personal goals with the instructor of record for the chosen course if different from the Graduate Advisor
5. Written approval from the student's Graduate Advisor, Program Advisory Committee, and instructor of record for the course chosen for the supervised teaching experience
6. Enrollment in BIO 792 (Doctoral Supervised Teaching) for 1-2 semester hours of credit for purposes of course planning during the semester prior to teaching the approved course
7. Enrollment in BIO 792 (Doctoral Supervised Teaching) for 3-4 semester hours of credit for purposes of preparation, reflection, and evaluation during the teaching semester

D. Extensive supervision of the supervised teaching experience is practiced through a series of formalized expectations of the Graduate Advisor, Instructor of Record, and the Program Advisory Committee:

1. The Program Advisory Committee will assist the student in selecting the course and timing for the Doctoral Supervised Teaching experience
2. The Graduate Advisor and Instructor of Record will be available to plan with the student during the BIO 792 (Doctoral Supervised Teaching) planning semester
3. The Graduate Advisor and Instructor of Record will attend all or most of the course lectures (and laboratories, if applicable) during the BIO 792 (Doctoral Supervised Teaching) teaching semester and provide regular verbal and written feedback to the student
4. Program Advisory Committee members will attend a minimum of three course lectures and/or laboratories during the teaching semester and provide verbal and/or written feedback to the student. Advisory Committee members who have a course conflict with the scheduled course hour should view videotapes of the class sessions
5. The Graduate Advisor and Instructor of Record will administer and collect mid-semester and end-of-semester teaching evaluations
6. The Graduate Advisor and Instructor of Record will maintain copies of course grades and other materials, such as syllabus and examinations
7. The Graduate Advisor and Instructor of Record, with input and approval of the Program Advisory Committee, will prepare for the student a written evaluation and assign the final grades for the BIO 792 (Supervised Doctoral Teaching) experience.

III. Evaluation of the fellow's teaching performance

Evaluation of the student's performance during the Supervised Teaching Experience is a continual process that begins during the semester used for course preparation, at least one semester prior to teaching of the course. The Graduate Advisor, Instructor of Record, and the Program Advisory Committee will jointly evaluate the students' performance. The evaluation will be in written form and will be presented to the student through a discussion session to provide maximal opportunity for further reflection and learning from the experience. This evaluation will be based on classroom observations by these individuals, willingness of the student to accept feedback and try suggestions from these individuals, midterm and end-of-semester teaching evaluations by students enrolled in the course, and a completed portfolio of the Doctoral Teaching Experience prepared by the fellow. Contents of the portfolio are to be determined jointly by the student, the Graduate Advisor, the Instructor of Record, and the Program Advisory Committee, but must include a minimum of the following items. Items 1 & 2 must be

completed during the planning semester of BIO 792 (Doctoral Supervised Teaching). The remaining items should be added during the teaching semester.

1. Students' personal goals for the Doctoral Supervised Teaching experience
2. Course lecture and laboratory (if applicable) syllabus; Course final examination
3. Mid-semester and end-of-semester student teaching evaluation results
4. Statement summarizing experience and reflecting on how well personal goals were met.