

College of Education
Short-Term Teaching and Learning Experience Abroad
Colegio Dominicano School in Santiago, Dominican Republic
SPRING 2020

The overall goal the short-term teaching experience in the Dominican Republic is to introduce students to a different world of education within the context of a developing country. Through the experience, pre-service teachers will develop a better understanding of a reality that is common among Latin-American countries and will have the chance to plan and teach lessons, design activities, interact with students, and experience what teaching is like in another culture.

The program is set in the city of Santiago, Dominican Republic. The Dominican Republic is a sovereign country on the island of Hispaniola, in the Greater Antilles islands in the Caribbean. Both by area and population, the Dominican Republic is the second-largest Caribbean nation with 48,445 square kilometers (18,705 sq. mi) and nearly 10 million people. The capital is Santo Domingo with Santiago existing as the second most important city in the country. Santiago is a mixture of three major groups including Taínos, Spaniards, and Africans with the Spaniard influence being the most noticeable in religion, values, trade, food, language, friendly interactions, and an aspirational way of living.

This program is a 6-week experience mainly consisting of teaching at Colegio Dominicano with some volunteer interactions in local public schools to gain holistic understanding of the educational system in the Dominican Republic. Colegio Dominicano is a private school established in Santiago in 1980. The school offers preschool, elementary, and high school grades. The school day runs from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Thursday and Fridays until 2:30 PM. In addition, an important part of the experience is the chance to become immersed in the Dominican culture through guided activities, city tours, traveling, dancing classes, and living as a local. Lodging (apartment complex with other American teachers who are employed full-time at the school), a small stipend for living expenses, a mobile device, and transportation will be provided. Interns are responsible for their flight cost, additional spending money, and specific personal needs. An English-speaking mentor teacher will be assigned to each intern.

Teacher candidates enrolled in the spring semester Internship II are selected to participate in a short-term teaching and learning experience in Shanghai, China. The chosen candidates *must have completed all coursework* in their program of study except for Internship II, any associate program capstone course, and EDCO 410/695. Since all Internship II requirements are completed in a shortened period of time, Internship II for the selected interns will begin around December 1, 2019 and end approximately March 20, 2020. Every effort is made for the Internship II school placement site to remain the same as the Internship I site to allow a smoother transition for this modified Internship II schedule. The chosen candidates leave for the Dominican Republic the third week in March and stay for approximately five to six weeks, returning late April/early May. Prior to departure, selected interns participate in a series of seminars that address Dominican culture, living and traveling abroad guidelines, and strategies for teaching English to foreign speakers. While in the Dominican Republic, candidates complete a reflective journal, participate in seminars, and are observed in the classroom setting. These activities occur as part of enrollment in EDUC 420/620, which is a one credit hour course to support the experience. Candidates must agree in writing to abide by guidelines for their conduct and safety. If, for some reason, a candidate is not fulfilling

expectations, we reserve the right to terminate the experience and arrange for return travel at the student's expense.

Application and Selection Process

1. Students enrolled in Internship I in fall 2019 who are interested in pursuing this opportunity submit a completed online application **by September 20, 2019**.
2. The Selection Committee contacts each applicant's faculty references and Internship I Mentor Teacher as well as reviews any other documents on record. After a careful review of the application documents, the Selection Committee narrows the pool of candidates and identifies program finalists.
3. In late September, the COE Associate Dean contacts each finalist by Winthrop email and invites them to participate in an interview with the Selection Committee.
4. Finalist applications are shared with Colegio Dominicano school leaders for input into the final selection.
5. **Announcement of the 2020 Dominican Republic Teaching Experience Interns is expected by October 15.**