

## Ethical, Legal and Accreditation Standards and Protocols

Clark Atlanta University's School of Education (the "School of Education") is committed to graduating excellent educators. In order to meet the standards of our accrediting bodies, faculty, students, clinical/site/field supervisors and staff are required to adhere to ethical, professional and legal obligations set by the accreditation standards.

Information regarding compliance with accrediting and governing authorities (including accreditation standards, professional and ethical standards, licensure and certification requirements) are provided to all students during orientation, introductory and seminar courses, workshops, and field experience courses.

Our programs of study are accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) <http://caepnet.org/>, and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) <https://www.gapsc.com/>. Programs with specialized national recognition include the Department of Counselor Education, which is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) <https://www.cacrep.org/>.

### Background Check Policy

The School of Education develops partnerships with educational agencies, such as public school districts, independently operated charter schools, early childhood education learning organizations, and mental health facilities, to promote the clinical field experiences for its students. We wholly support and value this component of our programs of study and are committed to preparing our students to meet the needs of our partners in this professional capacity.

Students are expected to display professionalism in conduct and disposition in the classroom, on and off campus, and throughout their respective clinical field placements.

Students are required to remain in good standing by following all CAU policies and procedures as well as those of their clinical placement, and by refraining from any unlawful or unethical activity.

As a condition to participate in any clinical field experience, students are required to submit to a background check for the Clinical Experiences, Partnerships and Placements office each semester to determine their character and fitness. Students whose background checks indicate that unprofessional and/or illegal activities have occurred will be referred to the Clark Atlanta University Office of Student Affairs, Director of Student Conduct and/or the Clark Atlanta University Department of Public Safety. This referral may result in the student's withdrawal from the School of Education's programs.

## Background Check Protocol

Students are required to provide proof of the following clear background checks while assigned to practical, clinical and field experiences, for each semester that the student is enrolled in the prescribed courses.

- Georgia State Criminal Record Check (comprehensive)
- Federal Criminal History Record
- National Fingerprinting

Students will be considered non-compliant if these clearances are not submitted before beginning any clinical field experience.

Background checks that reveal a criminal indication will require immediate advisement for the student in question with their program advisor and chair of the respective department and may result in the revocation of an assignment at a partnering school or organization and possible dismissal from the program.

Until criminal background checks clear, placement for the school is unlikely, which will require the student to withdraw from the class. Continuance at assigned schools/organizations will be made by the school district, principal or organization's leader.

***\*Please note – The School of Education cannot guarantee that a person with an entry of an instance of criminal conduct or a criminal record will be permitted to continue or complete course requirements.***

## Additional Resources for Ethical Standards and Codes of Conduct:

Our expectation is that CAU students represent the University, the School of Education, and the profession of teachers, counselors and therapists with the highest standards of ethics and professionalism. Guidance for these expectations can be found in the Code of Ethics for Georgia Educators and other profession specific organizations. These codes govern the professional conduct of educators, administrators and counselors in Georgia and throughout the United States.

### Department of Curriculum and Instruction

- The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) - <http://www.naeyc.org/>
- The Association of American Educators (AAE) – [www.aateachers.org](http://www.aateachers.org)
- National Education Association (NEA) - <http://www.nea.org/home/30442.htm>
- American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) - <http://aacte.org/>
- The Code of Ethics for Educators <https://www.gapsc.com/Rules/Current/Ethics/505-6-.01.pdf>
- National Association of Ethics for Educators (NASDTEC), Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE) – [https://www.nasdtec.net/page/MCEE\\_Doc](https://www.nasdtec.net/page/MCEE_Doc)
- The Association of Childhood Education International (ACEI) - <http://acei.org/>
- Special Education -The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) - <https://www.cec.sped.org/Standards/Ethical-Principles-and-Practice-Standards>

## Additional Resources for Ethical Standards and Codes of Conduct:

### Department of Counselor Education

- Georgia Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage & Family Therapists - <https://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/43>
- American Counseling Association (ACA) - <http://www.counseling.org/knowledge-center/ethics>

### Department of Educational Leadership

- Educational Leadership Constituency Council/National Policy Board for Educational Administration – (NPBEA) - Building and District Level Standards – Visit: <http://npbea.org/>

### Licensing and Certification Agencies

- Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) <http://caepnet.org/>
- Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) <https://www.gapsc.com/>

**Background Check Acknowledgement Form**

By signing below, you agree to submit to criminal background check(s) as identified in the above-referenced Background Check Policy and Protocol to verify your eligibility for clinical placement.

You agree that through your continued participation in the admissions process (and continued enrollment) at CAU, you assume any and all risks associated with any criminal conviction(s) currently on your record (in addition to any criminal convictions that occur during your tenure at CAU) and understand that such convictions may affect your continued eligibility as a student at CAU, your ability to matriculate from CAU, and your eligibility for clinical placement or licensure post-matriculation.

However, please note that CAU does NOT guarantee that admitted students will be eligible for clinical placement while in school or licensure upon matriculation. Any criminal charges, convictions, guilty pleas (including but not limited to a plea of nolo contendere) or acts that otherwise violate CAU’s student code of conduct (as well as the policies and procedures of any clinical placement site) may ultimately affect your ability to continue as a student in the School of Education as well as licensure post-matriculation.

You acknowledge that CAU reserves the right to take any disciplinary action up to and including expulsion based on any additional criminal conduct (or knowledge of additional facts related to the same criminal conduct) that occurs during your tenure as a student at CAU.

Further, you agree to indemnify and hold harmless CAU, its affiliates (as well as their officers, directors, employees, and any third parties or law enforcement agencies contracted to complete and furnish your background check) from any and all claims or damages resulting from a denial of clinical placement, withdrawal from CAU, or denial of licensure post-matriculation.

**Signatures of Acknowledgement and Understanding**

I confirm the receipt of the Ethical, Legal and Accreditation Standards and Protocols from the Clark Atlanta University School of Education and understand my role, responsibility and expectations as a student assigned to a clinical field experience.

|                 |                      |              |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Student:</b> | <b>Student 900#:</b> | <b>Date:</b> |
| _____           | _____                | _____        |

|                 |                |              |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Advisor:</b> | <b>Course:</b> | <b>Date:</b> |
| _____           | _____          | _____        |

|                         |                          |              |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Site Supervisor:</b> | <b>Department Chair:</b> | <b>Date:</b> |
| _____                   | _____                    | _____        |

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <b>Professional Development &amp; Credentialing<br/>Coordinator:</b> | <b>Date:</b> |
| _____  | _____        |