STATE OF NEBRASKA LEGISLATION
THAT GIVES THE STUDENT TEACHER A RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE CLASSROOM

Student Teacher or Intern Defined
For purposes of sections 79-875 to 79-878, student teacher or intern means a student who is enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution approved by the State Board of Education for teacher training and who is jointly assigned by such institution and a board of education to student-teach or intern under the direction of a regularly employed certificated teacher, principal, or other administrator. Student teaching may include duties granted to a certificated teacher under the rules and regulations of such board and any other part of the school program for which either the cooperating teacher or the principal is responsible. Source: Laws 1971, LB 175, § 1; R.S.1943, (1994), § 79-1297; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 500.

Student Teacher or Intern: Protection; Rules and Regulations; Comply
A student teacher or intern under the supervision of a certificated teacher, principal, or other administrator shall have the protection of the laws accorded the certificated teacher, principal, or other administrator and shall, while acting as such student teacher or intern, comply with all rules and regulations of the local board of education and observe all duties assigned certificated teachers. Source: Laws 1971, LB 175, § 2; R.S.1943, (1994), § 79-1298; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 501. (See Appendix: Standards of Ethical and Professional Performance for Public School Certificate Holders for specific criteria.)

Student Teacher or Intern; Responsibilities and Duties
A cooperating teacher, in cooperation with the principal or other administrator, and the representative of the teacher preparation institution shall assign to the student teacher or intern responsibilities and duties that will provide adequate preparation for teaching. Source: Laws 1971, LB 175, § 3; R.S.1943, (1994), § 79-1299; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 502.

Student Teacher or Intern; Terms, Defined
Whenever in sections 79-875 to 79-878 board of education is referred to and the school that a student teacher or intern is referred to does not have a board of education, such term shall be the person or governing body that administers such school. Source: Laws 1971, LB 175, § 4; R.S.1943, (1994), § 79-12,100; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 503.

Student Teacher: Substituting
According to the Advisory Memorandum 99-02, Certification and Employment of Teachers and Administrators, it is unlawful for a student teacher to substitute in the absence of a cooperating teacher. Any educator responsible for teaching students and/or the supervision of professionals engaged in teaching or administration must have a current and valid Nebraska teaching certificate. There is no provision for an individual to be in “professional practice” without this certificate. The laws and regulations are absolutely clear that this is a prohibited practice and places both the school administrator and the district administrator at risk of civil penalties, professional practice penalties, or both. If the absence of the cooperating teacher occurs at a later time in the experience, the school systems may have the student teacher assume more responsibilities in the classroom, but only under the supervision of a qualified licensed substitute teacher.

Students with Disabilities
The university is committed to providing support for students with disabilities. If you are a student with physical, learning, emotional, or psychological disabilities, you are encouraged to stop by room 163 in the Memorial Student Affairs Building, the Academic Success Office, and make an appointment with David Brandt, the Disabilities Coordinator, at 308-865-8214 or by email at brandtdd@unk.edu. If you have an accommodation plan, please see the instructor as soon as possible, so he/she can make any arrangements necessary for your learning. No accommodations can be provided until a Reasonable Accommodation Plan is in place. Please remember, plans are not retroactive and cannot be used for assignments prior to the date of the instructor’s signature.

UNK Student Code of Conduct
Student teachers are expected to adhere to the UNK Student Code of Conduct. As stated in Article II: “...by virtue of being a student, University disciplinary jurisdiction may extend to any violation of the Student Code of Conduct...including on or off campus activities or events, whether or not the act occurs on University premises.” For the complete text of the Student Code of Conduct, go to the UNK Student Handbook.