



### CLINICAL CONNECTIONS

Students at Lasell University benefit from consistent coursework-clinical connections. Multiple courses have frequent, relevant connections that are often modeled by instructors in their own teaching. Faculty members deepen these connections through linked fieldwork and ancillary activities that allow program candidates to apply course knowledge in their own teaching.

Lasell University grounds its education coursework in a connected learning philosophy that emphasizes the following practices and themes:

**MEANINGFUL LMS INTEGRATION.** In addition to in-person meetings, each education course makes consistent use of the university's learning management system (LMS). The LMS structure ensures faculty can provide additional experiences week to week, enhancing the content of each course. Within this LMS, faculty supplement weekly content with videos, online professional development tools, and curated resources from third-party platforms. Taken together, these asynchronous experiences provide program candidates with multiple opportunities to engage with high-quality resources.

**PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES IN SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS.** Lasell ensures that teacher candidates experience a variety of clinical settings during their education coursework. By seeking diverse placements, candidates can confront the realities of teaching in multiple contexts. In totality, these experiences accrue to 25 hours during a candidate's first year in the program 75 hours during the second year, 100 hours during the third year, and 550 hours during a candidate's final year.

**AUTHENTIC SITUATIONS.** Supplementing in-school experiences, Lasell makes ongoing use of simulated teaching software for goal-directed practice. From easier tasks such as class introductions to more complex proficiencies such as establishing rules, developing literacy skills, and running parent teacher conferences, this software grants candidates multiple practice opportunities that can ease anxiety while fostering coursework-clinical connections.

As Lasell works to promote coursework-clinical connections for candidates, the program has confronted several challenges:

Investment in emergent technology. Lasell adopted simulation software to provide practice opportunities for program candidates, but initial faculty investment was lacking. Over a 3-year period, faculty gradually adopted the platform; it now stands as an indispensable facet of Lasell's model.

Securing diverse placements & quality teacher mentors. While the faculty and staff of Lasell value diverse placements—including those in under-resourced schools—the university's geography can make securing such placements a challenge. Coupled with many students' desire to teach in middle-class settings that mirror their own educational background, the program's commitment to providing diverse placements requires vigilant effort. Within these placements, Lasell must also devote ongoing resources and time in vetting teaching supervisors.

For More Information:

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