



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

ESU- Fellowship for Acceleration to Student Teaching

Project Summary:

The Fellowship for Acceleration to Student Teaching (FAST) is a new, accelerated option for elementary education majors who transfer from a community college to Emporia State University (ESU). The fellowship will accelerate the path to student teaching for those teacher candidates who commit to serve as a student teacher in an underserved area. The program option features:

- Use of established transfer agreements with community college partners.
- Modified plans of study for fellows upon entry to ESU, increasing accelerated summer courses, thereby expediting graduation by one semester.
- Increased offerings of online courses and face-to-face courses at distance locations for place-bound individuals near underserved areas (Kansas City and Wichita).
- Commitment from underserved school districts (USD 500 Kansas City and USD 259 Wichita):
 - provide a guaranteed year-long student teaching placement, and
 - interview the fellow upon completion of the year-long student teaching internship.
- Mentorship for fellows prior to student teaching by an elementary classroom teacher employed by the underserved school district where the fellow will complete student teaching.

Students enrolled in the FAST program option will complete all courses in established 2+2 transfer agreements with Johnson County Community College and Butler Community College (attachment 1, 2). However, plans of study for the second two years at ESU will be modified to expedite graduation by one semester. Modifications include: (a) rearrangement of course sequence and (b) the addition of accelerated summer courses.

The FAST program option was designed to address two barriers that prevent timely entry of elementary classroom teachers into the Kansas workforce, including: (a) undergraduate students who require parttime enrollment due to financial constraints and (b) undergraduate student reluctance to complete student teaching in underserved areas.