



To Whom It May Concern:

Suffolk University's graduate program in School Counseling requires students to engage in a variety of pre-practicum observation hours as part of their coursework, and we require that these observation hours be completed prior to the student beginning their practicum experience. The spirit of the pre-practicum observation hours at Suffolk is to expose students to a diverse array of settings in which school counselors work to permit the students to see how their role in a school can be quite different among various schools, school districts, and levels of practice. While the focus of the observations is school counselors, students are encouraged to observe other educators as well – including classroom teachers, special education teachers, school psychologists, and school adjustment counselors.

The pre-practicum experience is, by definition, observational in nature. I do understand that sometimes the confidential nature of a school counselor's work is not appropriate for observation. In those cases, please try to arrange for the student to observe something else in your school. Please do ask any student you are working with if it is acceptable to have an observer in the room. If it is acceptable, the Suffolk student is obligated to abide by the rules of confidentiality, and will not share names or identifying information about anything they have observed with me or their classmates.

Regarding CORI checks, please be advised that the observation hours are meant to be observations of licensed educators – these graduate students are not supposed to be alone with any of your students. According to the relevant Massachusetts General Laws (<http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/71-38r.htm>), CORI checks are required for those who will have 'direct and unmonitored contact with children'. The observations these graduate students are engaged in should not be unmonitored. However, you are free to follow your own school's policies and err on the side of caution.

I truly appreciate your taking the time to indoctrinate a future school counselor into the profession. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. If you would like to host a Suffolk intern for their year-long 450 hour practicum experience, please let me know!

Best regards,

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