

## **Brookhaven College Student Observations – Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. Who are the students that observe?**

All observers are college students in the Child Development and Teacher Education Department at Brookhaven College. They are undergraduate students, many of whom will transfer to a four-year university.

### **2. What will the student do while observing my program?**

Students perform a variety of assignments, ranging from observations, interviews or checklists, to actually presenting an activity or lesson. In addition, some students are required to fulfill internship or practicum hours; these students are advised about placement before contacting you. Please ask the student to show you his or her syllabus and/or ask his or her role or capacity.

### **3. How often will they be coming?**

Many students will observe your program once or twice for occasional assignments, while others – those who are in courses that require lab or coop hours – will need to make arrangements with you to come on a more frequent, scheduled basis. Be sure to ask students to explain their role.

### **4. Which criminal history background checks are in place for these students?**

All students enrolled in a child development or education course must satisfy a clearance for criminal misdemeanor and felony records. To ensure that our department's requirements have been satisfied, a self-disclosure form is submitted to the instructor by the second week of class. However, students are advised that some programs or schools may require their own clearances and requirements, prior to participating or observing. Many students complete a CH Background Check online through the Texas DPS and can provide this documentation to you. If your school or program has specific requirements for clearance, please request that information from the student.

### **5. What if I have questions or concerns about a student?**

Brookhaven College requires its students to conduct themselves professionally while observing your program. If any problems, questions or concerns arise, please contact Johnny Castro, program coordinator, at 972-860-4136 or [jCastro@dcccd.edu](mailto:jCastro@dcccd.edu).

### **6. Why must these students observe or participate in my program?**

Students are required by the Texas Coordinating Board for Higher Education to observe in various settings. In addition, it is critical to provide students with real-world experiences that engage them in all facets of the profession – the assignments they are given while observing allow them those experiences. Research suggests that early field experiences equip students to better understand the realities of the workplace. Your program's role in their learning experience is greatly appreciated.