

## **THE STUDENT TEACHING SEMESTER**

One of the most significant events for the teacher candidate is student teaching. For approximately 14 weeks, student teachers, guided by facilitating teachers and university supervisors, learn to carry out the responsibilities of a professional teacher. Successful student teaching will lead to recommendation for teacher certification.

As candidates participate in student teaching, they should demonstrate the willingness and capacity for continuous reflection on their performance so that their professional development becomes increasingly self-motivated. When the candidates entering the program are successful, the teacher education program at Shepherd University is successful. This success can be achieved only when candidates, facilitating teachers, and school and university personnel collaborate to achieve the goal of preparing competent teachers.

For the student teaching semester, candidates seeking early education certification enroll in EDUC 449 (PreK/K). Candidates seeking elementary certification enroll in EDUC 450/600 (K-6). Secondary candidates, depending on the level of certification sought, enroll in one of the following: EDUC 455/603 (PreK-Adult), EDUC 456/601 (5-Adult), or EDUC 457/602 (9-Adult). In addition, all undergraduate candidates enroll in EDUC 400, Inclusion in the Regular Classroom, and graduate candidates enroll in EDUC 527, Inclusion Seminar. The concurrent enrollment in Inclusion in the Regular Classroom/Inclusion Seminar and Student Teaching, coupled with the more elaborate and intense supervision, continues the Action-Reflection-Action Cycle that characterizes all teacher education practicums.

Each student teacher has completed courses/experiences in general studies, foundations of education, pedagogy, content areas, and practicums. These practicums prior to student teaching are designed to achieve program elements through our graduated infusion model at the learning levels of Awareness, Initiative, and Development. The final level of learning, Integration, is the focus of achievement during Student Teaching.