

Module No. 5: Laboratory Assistant

Technology teachers require their students to spend a majority of their class time engaged in laboratory activities. During the course of these laboratory activities, the teacher promotes and facilitates learning by circulating through the laboratory and provides assistance as problems and questions arise. In the laboratory, the teacher's role tends to be a combination of coach, tutor, mentor, safety inspector, and shop foreman. During laboratory activities the teacher tends to address the needs of students on a one-to-one basis in contrast to lecturing the whole class. The purpose of this module is to provide you with an opportunity to work with students during laboratory activities. This will require you to become familiar with the laboratory activities being performed, to shadow your cooperating teacher for a time, to circulate among students independently, to monitor their activities, and to provide assistance and encouragement as needed.

Objective

After completing of at least 5 clinical hours, students will be able to write a short narrative that: (1) describes the nature of the laboratory activities being performed by students, (2) identifies specific tasks that students found challenging and often require assistance, and (3) recommends appropriate safety procedures.

Assignment

Listen to your cooperating teachers instructions to the class very carefully and try to determine the laboratory agenda for the period. Spend the first 10 or fifteen minutes of your visit shadowing the cooperating teacher and monitoring his or her interactions with students. After you have developed a basic idea of what students are suppose to accomplish, ask you cooperating teacher how you can be of some assistance in his or her efforts to address the needs of a small group or individual students in the laboratory. If appropriate, volunteer to disseminate supplies, circulate around the room, and supervise students. You must adhere to all safety regulations at all times (e.g., wearing safety glasses, securing loose clothing, following safety rules).

On a separate sheet of paper, write one or more paragraph(s) addressing each of the following questions.

1. What was the nature of the laboratory activities being performed by students during your visits?
2. What were some specific tasks that student found challenging and how were your able to provide some assistance?
3. What recommendations would you propose for ensuring laboratory safety during the laboratory activities that you observed?
4. Submit the Lab Assistant: Cooperating Teacher Evaluation to the teacher and discuss with him/her the potential of you teaching a lesson.

If a lesson is taught, submit

- Module #5 response to the above questions,**
- a hardcopy of the lesson plan,**
- any written comments from the teacher, and**
- the Lab Assistant: Cooperating Teacher Evaluation form.**

If no lesson is taught Module #6 must be completed.

Module #5

Lab Assistant: Cooperating Teacher Evaluation

Please circle a response for each question, sign and date.

While serving as a laboratory assistant, the student...

became familiar with at least one of the laboratory activities being performed by students.	YES	NO
circulated around the room or worked with a small group of students.	YES	NO
modeled and promoted safety in the laboratory.	YES	NO
discovered laboratory tasks that students found difficult and provided appropriate assistance.	YES	NO
would you be comfortable having this student teach a lesson?	YES	NO

(If all marked yes and only upon your approval, UW-Stout would invite and encourage you to offer this student a mini-lesson s/he could teach. Identify the day, time, and specific lesson objective. The student must write a lesson plan which is reviewed by you in advance. Please place written comments on the lesson plan or a separate sheet of paper that the student might include in his/her portfolio. If you elect to permit the student to teach, know this is greatly appreciated and meaningful. Permitting the student to teach is completely at your professional discretion and you have no obligation to UW-Stout in this matter.)

- Did you offer the student the opportunity to teach? YES NO
- Did the student teach a lesson? N/A YES NO
- Were you generally pleased with the lesson? N/A YES NO

Comments or suggestions to this student:

Cooperating Teacher Signature: _____