

## TWO ROADS FOR TEACHER PREPARATION

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The Department of Agricultural Education at Oregon State University offers two plans of teacher preparation: The standard student teaching program and the internship.

During the past two years staff members from the School of Education at Oregon State University have studied internship plans of teacher preparation in effect in various states. Direct observation of these has confirmed the feasibility of the internship.

Internship involves two types of students: Those post graduates of schools of agriculture who have no professional work in teacher education but desire to qualify as teachers.

Students who have taken teacher preparation for four years and wish to substitute internship for student teaching.

The traditional student teaching program requires a minimum of eighteen full weeks in a high school center and supplies constant supervision from a supervising teacher. The internship involves teaching on a half-time basis, usually for nine or twelve months and provides intermittent supervision from a master teacher.

The entire internship program is characterized by: 1) a full summer session on the campus; 2) nine to twelve months in a vocational agricultural department on a one-half time contractual basis; 3) one-half academic load while in the secondary school; 4) a regular Saturday class on the campus during the year; 5) a follow-up summer session on campus; 6) supervision and evaluation by State Department, Teacher Trainer, and local schools; and 7) a memorandum of understanding for all concerned parties.

Formal application is made by the prospective intern. Criteria of selection are based on past education, physical fitness, personal fitness for teaching, maturity displayed, and local district willingness to employ the candidate. Written forms, personal interview, and references are utilized.

The experimental internship program in effect involves a three-way relationship. Memorandum of understandings are prepared for personnel of the State Department of Education, the local schools, and the School of Education at Oregon State University. The working out of these understandings is essential and results in appreciations of the responsibilities of each.

This experimental intern program is young. It is planned to continue the experiment for a minimum of seven years. With continuous evaluation by all concerned, seven years should indicate its future in teacher preparation.