

Promoting At-Promise Student Success

Adjusting Student Schedule Around Military Assignments

Purpose: This student vignette highlights how a student may need to work with advisors and counselors to adjust their schedules according to personal or familial military involvement.

Student Vignette:

Internship placements for student practicum requirements came in on Thursday. By Monday, Elise learned that her husband was being moved to Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, within the next two weeks. This was the third move they had made since she started the program. She had worked so hard to build a strong rapport with her supervisor to land the internship of her choice. She wasn't sure whether her internship could be conducted remotely once she moved to Texas, or if she would need to find a new placement. Elise also wondered how she would adjust her course schedule to accommodate this sudden move. She opened her laptop and began writing an email to you, her advisor, to inform you of the situation.

Guiding Questions:

1. Have you encountered a situation like this? If so, briefly reflect on those experiences. How did you support the student? What approaches were beneficial? What approaches were less successful?
2. Describe the challenges Elise is navigating. What are the key issues that need to be addressed to support Elise before the semester ends? What resources exist on campus that may be helpful? What are her strengths that can be leveraged in this situation?
3. Given your role (e.g., academic advisor, program director, faculty, etc.), what might you do to support Elise? What are some limitations in your current knowledge and skills in meeting Elise's needs? What resources or opportunities can you connect her with on and off-campus?
4. Reflect on the concept of ecological validation. How could the norms framing student interactions (holistic, proactive, strengths-oriented, and developmental) and the work of educators (collaborative and reflective) be leveraged to support Elise?
5. What policies and practices could be shifted to support students in a similar situation? What would need to happen to initiate change? Who would be involved in this process?