Teacher Education

The Education Work Experience Requirement

Rationale
Future teachers must be familiar with the characteristics of learners from various cultural, social and ethnic backgrounds. Therefore, through volunteer or paid experiences in education settings such as day care centers, public and private school classrooms, summer camps, and other youth groups, prospective teachers must interact with learners of the age group they plan to teach.

This work with “age-appropriate” learners promotes an understanding of teaching-learning processes, contributes to sound decision-making about academic and career goals, and helps prepare educators for their work with diverse learners. Documentation of these activities contributes to a professional portfolio valued by employers.

Requirement
Criteria for admission to some teacher education programs includes documentation of some volunteer or paid education work experience with learners of a variety of age groups.
Please discuss requirements for your intended program with your academic adviser.

Implementation
These early teaching experiences may occur before or after a student matriculates at Penn State, but for all the Childhood & Early Adolescent, Secondary, World Language and Music Education programs, the experiences must occur following graduation from high school. (Some other teacher certification programs at Penn State will review experiences completed prior to graduation from high school). All experiences must be documented by the end of the fall semester prior to formal application to a teacher education program. These experiences must be in addition to those associated with courses such as CI 295.

Experiences with young children engaged in meaningful learning activities such as work in a day care setting are appropriate, yet routine “baby-sitting” is not. Community and campus jobs, summer camps, etc., with youngsters who are of the age or exceptionality you plan to teach once certified, are also appropriate.

Education Work Experience Documentation Form (inside panel)
This is used to document these early teaching-learning, “age-appropriate” experiences. The student ensures that the completed form, with supervisor’s verification, is returned to Penn State so that the student’s academic record will reflect those hours accepted by the academic department. (Students should keep a copy of the completed form). Multiple forms, available from advisers, may be needed for multiple experiences.

You, as the prospective teacher, complete sections 1-12 of the form. [PLEASE PRINT.] Then you ask the person who supervised the education work experiences to verify the information, and mail this form immediately. (Remember to provide self-addressed, stamped envelope). Note that it is your responsibility, not the supervisor’s, to ensure that this form reaches us.

Questions?
Please contact academic advisers or administrators representing the teacher preparation programs. General inquiries about teacher education at Penn State may be directed to the Advising and Certification Center at (814) 865-0488, <http://www.ed.psu.edu>.
EDUCATION WORK EXPERIENCE DOCUMENTATION FORM

To be completed by Prospective Teacher:

1. ____________________________________________ (Penn State Student’s Name)
2. ____________________________________________ (Email address)
3. ____________________________________________ (Current PSU Location)
4. ____________________________________________ (PSU ID#)
5. ____________________________________________ (Area of Intended Teacher Certification)
6. Date(s) of the Experience ___________________________ to ___________________________
7. Total Hours _______________________________________
8. Specifically describe the duties performed in this experience:
9. Enter the number of learners in each age range below with whom you may have worked:
   a. Pre-school learners
   b. Elementary school learners
   c. Middle school/junior high school learners
   d. High school learners
   e. Adult learners w/special needs
   f. Total number of learners (a through e)
10. Enter the number of learners in each area of special need/exceptionality below with whom you may have worked:
    a. at-risk
    b. learning disabilities
    c. mental retardation
    d. emotional disturbance
    e. autistic
    f. physically challenged
    g. hearing impaired
    h. visually impaired
    i. other (specify)
    j. Total number of learners (a through i)
11. Were the majority of the learners with whom you worked culturally, socially, or ethnically different from your own background? ______ Yes ______ No
    Describe the cultural/ethnic background(s) of the majority of these learners:

RELEASE AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize the supervisor identified below to verify and comment on the information above, and I release the supervisor from any potential liability or responsibility arising from supplying this information.

12. ____________________________________________ (Student’s Signature) 13. ________________ (Date)

To be Completed by the Supervisor:*  

Thank you for completing items A-G below, thereby confirming the date reported by our student. Any additional comments are also welcome.

A. ____________________________________________ (Supervisor’s Signature)
B. ____________________________________________ (Email address)
C. ____________________________________________ (Date)  D. ____________________________ (Phone Number)
E. ____________________________________________ (Title)
F. ____________________________________________ (School/Company)
G. Comments:

*For additional space, if needed, please, use right panel. ONLY report experiences with learners of the age group you plan to teach.

Send completed forms to the department of your intended certification area at the following building address at University Park, PA 16802

AEE 209A Ferguson 863-7852  MU ED 233 Music Bldg. 865-1052
AED 207 Arts Cottage 865-6572  SECEC 144 Chambers 865-1500
CEAED 144 Chambers 865-1500  Spled 125 Cedar 865-6643
KINES 270 Rec Hall 865-5801  WL ED 144 Chambers 865-1500

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Send completed forms for the MTHBD program to:  
Penn State Erie, 4701 College Dr., Erie, PA 16563  814-898-6091
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Send completed forms for the SECAB programs to:  
Penn State Abington, 119 Sutherland Bldg., Abington, PA 19001

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