

Update on Changes to Field Experiences

Proposed October 29, 2010

Revised March 23, 2011

Issues we need to deal with:

- Current field experience configuration is too shallow, candidates need deeper experiences
- Too much focus on hours instead of learning
- Growth in student numbers has led to an “overwhelming” of the public schools
- How do we demonstrate that we are moving toward target in NCATE Standard III?

How we approached these issues:

- June 8 – Day long departmental retreat to review current program (see Table 1 for details), NCATE Standard III and brainstorm ideas.
- August Teacher Education Advancement Team Meeting – Presented ideas to teacher education faculty for input. One concern was that candidates would not be in schools until spring of sophomore year under the new plan.
- September – Lisa Waller held focus group meetings with students and public school partners to solicit ideas
- October 27 – Education Department met again to review input from all parties and make recommendations. Recommendations are below:
 1. Set up lab times for candidates for field experiences. Lab times will include multiple sections with varied time slots. This will allow the Clinical Experiences Coordinator to make placements earlier and will ensure that schools know when students are coming each week.
 2. Remove field experience hours from EDU 224, 230 and 232. To expose candidates to teachers, students and schools, each of these classes will have a group experience. In EDU 224, a panel of teachers will come into the class to talk about course topics as they relate to public schools. In EDU 230, candidates will go on a day long field trip that includes visits to elementary, middle and high schools to look at growth and development at all levels. In EDU 232, candidates will visit Mid-Carolina Middle School to learn about and observe gender specific classes.
 3. Field Experiences will be condensed to four intensive experiences concentrating on essential tasks rather than hours.
 4. All candidates will complete a field experience in EDU 300 – Assessment for Learning. This will be set up as a lab for 2 hours per week for 14 weeks and will be called Field Experience I.

5. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th intensive experiences (fall junior, spring junior and fall senior) will be in different classes depending on the major. See Table for details.

Table 1 - 4 intensive experiences focusing on tasks rather than hours

Field Experience	ECE	ELE	EMD	SEC	PHE	MUS
I – Sp/Soph	EDU 300	EDU 300	EDU 300	EDU 300	EDU 300	
II – Fall/Jr	EDU 341	EDU 341	EMD 335/336			
III – Sp/Jr	ECE 439	ELE 449	EDU 342/ Methods	EDU 342/ Methods	EDU 342/ Methods	
IV – Fall/Sr	ECE 437	ELE 457	EDU 455/ English Methods	EDU 455/ English Methods	EDU 455/ PHE 440	