

SPU's EDCN 5730: Field Experience Pedagogy Assessment Overview

What is Field Experience?

- Field Experience is a 10 week, 5-credit 5000-level course in which endorsement candidates demonstrate full proficiency in their new subject area. The course involves self-placement in an appropriate classroom. Observations are conducted via video recordings sent to an SPU supervisor via GoReact software. The core of the course is collaboration with an SPU supervisor to receive curricular and pedagogical coaching. Students are required to display knowledge and skills in their new subject area and to document their ability to effectively impact learning in the new content area. **EDCN 5730 students will all come into the course with teaching experience, but are expected to approach the class willing and open to learning and refining their pedagogy alongside their mentor and supervisor.**

Field Experience prerequisites:

- Complete majority of required coursework and/or submit official transcripts if courses were completed outside SPU.
- Pass the WEST-E/NES test(s) for the new endorsement subject area.
- **Locate an appropriate classroom placement** (or verify your own classroom is appropriate) and **an on-campus mentor** teacher who holds the endorsement the candidate is seeking and has 3+ years' experience in that subject.

Course application and registration:

- This free application will include agreements from your mentor and administrator, as well as proof of your WEST-E / NES test scores and your Field Experience school site information. All documents can be found on page one of the application, posted online.
- **Application deadlines for 2025-26:** Fall 2025—July 31st, Winter 2026—October 31st, Spring 2026—January 31st. You will need to have WEST-E/NES results before you apply, so **plan to test about a month prior to the application due date.**
- You may access the online application for all cohorts via our website. If you apply for but later choose not to join a particular cohort, please note you **will** need to re-apply with up-to-date signatures from your mentor and admin.
- Once you have your official test score results, you may submit an application, ***even if you have not yet completed coursework***. You will have the opportunity on the application to list your plan for completing courses still pending.
- After you submit your application, it will be reviewed by CPE. If approved, you will be cleared to register and will be able to do so through our website. The full cost is due at time of registration.

Course overview:

- **Written Requirements**. In addition to the classroom teaching, this course requires collaborative development of a unit plan, evidence of positive impact and reflection papers, evaluations and a professional growth plan. More details will be available via Canvas upon course registration.
- **Classroom Teaching**: This course is designed to work within a full-time teacher's schedule, even if not currently teaching in the new subject area. You are responsible for finding a classroom for field experience in which to teach one class period over period of approximately 10 days (in other words, at least 10 hours total).
- **Formal Observations by SPU Supervisor**: You will teach a minimum of two lessons from the unit plan for the purpose of formal observation and evaluation by the assigned SPU Supervisor.
- **Formal Observation by Mentor Teacher**: **It is your responsibility to locate a Mentor Teacher**. In most cases, the mentor teacher is the host teacher of the classroom where you completing your field experience. The mentor is required to have an endorsement in the subject area and have a minimum of 3 years' experience teaching in that subject area. If you are already teaching in your new endorsement area, mentors play a minimal, but still vital, role of providing as-needed guidance. Mentors submit observation paperwork for one formal observation, which should be a different lesson than the SPU Supervisor has reviewed.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. If I am currently teaching in the new subject area and/or have many years of experience teaching this subject, do I have to complete a field experience?**
- A:** Yes. EDCN 5730 is a requirement of SPU's endorsement program. SPU requires that one of our faculty members observe and document effective instructional skills in the new endorsement area before we recommend a candidate for an endorsement. Since SPU is listed as the recommending agency, we feel a moral obligation to only recommend candidates whom we have seen demonstrate effective instructional strategies.
- Q. How can I complete a field experience while I am teaching full-time?**
- A.** SPU's program is designed specifically for current teachers who are pursuing an additional endorsement. The field experience allows a teacher to complete while spending as little as one period a day over approximately 10 days in another classroom, often during a preparation period. If your current placement fulfills the requirements for the new endorsement, you are welcome to use your own classroom as your observation site. (For example, if you are working in a Special Education classroom and pursuing a SPED Endorsement).
- Q. How can I complete a field experience if I'm not currently working in a school?**
- A.** Students who do not have easy access to a classroom setting have two options: 1) contact fellow teachers in the subject area to see if they will allow you to teach in their classroom for 10 days, or 2) contact a school district Human Resources department to find a placement for the field experience. CPE does not provide placement for candidates or establish MOUs with school districts, but we will assist you with any correspondence required by a school district to secure your placement.
- Q. Will SPU find a classroom placement for me or assign a mentor teacher?**
- A.** It is the candidate's responsibility to secure an appropriate setting (classroom) for their Field Experience. In addition, the candidate must find a mentor teacher who holds the endorsement the candidate is pursuing *and* three years of experience in that endorsement area. SPU cannot assist with this process.
- Q. Who will be my Field Supervisor be for the Field Experience?**
- A.** Instructors will be assigned via email on, or a few days before, the course start date.
- Q. How long does it take to receive the added endorsement after the course is complete?**
- A.** If all other program requirements are met, the candidate can expect to receive instructions for claiming their new endorsement via OSPI approximately ***one month*** after the course close date.