

SPU's EDCN 5730: Field Experience Pedagogy Assessment Overview

What is Field Experience?

Field Experience is a quarter-long, 5 credit course offered Fall, Winter, and Spring, providing endorsement candidates the opportunity to demonstrate skill in the new subject area. The course involves self-placement in an appropriate classroom with mentor teacher who holds the appropriate endorsement. Course curriculum is available through the Canvas online learning platform. Observations may take place in-person or via video recordings, depending on circumstances.

Through out the ten-week course, the candidate will collaborate with an SPU supervisor to receive curricular and pedagogical coaching, and to create a portfolio to display the knowledge and skills gained in the new endorsement area, as well as to document the candidate's ability to make a positive impact on learning in the new content area.

Field Experience prerequisites:

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

Course application and registration:

- Because the course requires us to pair you with an SPU supervisor, an online application is required. This 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.
- **Application deadlines for 2021-22: Fall 2021—July 31st, Winter 2022—October 31st, Spring 2022—January 31st. You will need to have WEST-E /NES results before you apply, so plan to test a month prior to the application due date.**
- You may access the online application for all three 2021-22 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 prior to the course start date.
- 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 \$1450.00 is due at time of registration.

Course overview:

Written Requirements. Create, collaborate to edit, and teach a showcase unit plan in the new endorsement area. In addition to the classroom teaching, this course also requires a portfolio including development of a unit plan to be taught, 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 he/she is not currently teaching in the new subject area. The endorsement candidate is responsible for finding a classroom for their field experience, where they will teach one class period over a minimum of 5-10 days (at least 5-10 hours total).

Formal Observations by SPU Supervisor: The candidate will teach a minimum of two lessons from the unit plan for the purpose of formal observation and evaluation by the assigned SPU Supervisor, as well as submitting additional

Formal Observation by Mentor Teacher: It is the candidate's responsibility to locate a Mentor Teacher. In most cases, the mentor teacher is the teacher of the classroom where you will be 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. We ask that they complete one formal observation and submit observation paperwork.

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. The Field Experience course is a requirement of SPU's endorsement program. SPU wants one of our faculty members to 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 the field experience by 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 (i.e, 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 primary options: 1) contact fellow teachers in the subject area to see if they will allow you to teach in their classroom for 5-10 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.
- Q. Who will be my Field Supervisor be for the Field Experience?**
- A.** Instructors will be assigned via email *after* the application and registration is complete.
- 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.