

field experience placements



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SPU Supervisors travel state-wide to candidate classrooms. Here are a few examples of recent locations!

SPU's EDCN 5730: Field Experience Pedagogy Assessment Overview

What is Field Experience?

Field Experience is a candidate's opportunity to demonstrate skill in the new subject area. The candidate will locate a classroom appropriate to his/her desired endorsement and with the support of a mentor teacher, teach a unit of study. (At least one lesson period per day for 5-10 days.) An SPU supervisor will observe several of the candidate's lessons and provide pedagogical guidance throughout the process.

The course also involves the creation of 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.

When am I eligible for Field Experience?

Admitted SPU Endorsement candidates may enroll in the course only after they have:

- Completed all required coursework in their program of study and submitted official transcripts from coursework completed at any institution outside SPU
- Passed the WEST-E/NES test(s) for their endorsement subject area
- Located an appropriate classroom placement (or verified their own classroom as appropriate) and a mentor teacher who holds the endorsement the candidate is seeking and has 3+ years' experience serving in that capacity.

How do I register for Field Experience?

Field Experience is a quarter-long course and is offered Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters, but because it requires classroom placement verification and pairing with an SPU supervisor, we ask that candidates express intent to enroll approximately **two months prior** to the start date of the course by emailing endorse@spu.edu. Deadlines are listed on the chart below.

Express intent by...	To participate in field experience....
July 31st	Fall Quarter (September-December)
October 31st	Winter Quarter (January-March)
January 31st	Spring Quarter (March-June)

Candidates who express their intent late may be waitlisted for the course, or they may have to wait until the following quarter for availability. If a candidate applies to the Endorsement Program within 90 days of his/her requested Field Experience quarter, an expedited application processing fee will apply.

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 am 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. The Endorsement Program does not provide placement for candidates, but we will assist you with any correspondence or forms required by a school district to secure your placement.
- Q. Will SPU find a 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. A qualified Mentor Teacher will hold the endorsement the candidate is pursuing *and* will have three years of experience in that endorsement area.
- Q. Who will be my instructor for the Field Experience?**
- A.** Instructors will be assigned *after* the candidate has submitted all required forms to register for the Field Experience.
- Q. How long does it take to receive the certificate with the added endorsement after the course is complete?**
- A.** The Certification Officer will verify completion of the endorsement program requirements to the certification office of OSPI, which will then issue the candidate's certificate with the additional endorsement. SPU will then communicate next steps for the candidate which will include logging onto OSPI's eCertification system to pay the new endorsement fee. After OSPI has received the fee, they will mail a new certificate with the added endorsement directly to the candidate. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure OSPI has a current address on file. The candidate can update their contact information through OSPI's eCertification System.

Overview of Course

Written Requirements. Compile and submit a portfolio that documents completion of the objectives. The following is a general overview of portfolio components:

- Introductory Paper
- Classroom and Student Characteristic Analysis
- The Unit Plan and Unit Plan Evidence of Positive Impact and Reflection
- Lesson Plan Reflections and Rationales
- Evaluations (from both supervisor and mentor teacher)
- Other Evidence - documentation, descriptions, or artifacts that support required criterion
- Post-Endorsement Professional Growth Plan

(Please note: Portfolio requirements may change slightly and will be described in detail on the course syllabus.)

Formal Observations by Course Instructor The candidate will teach one or more units of study in the chosen endorsement area over a period of at least 5-10 days. The candidate will teach a minimum of two lessons from his/her unit plan for the purpose of formal observation and evaluation by the course instructor. Prior to each of these observations the candidate will submit written documents for that lesson to the course instructor.

Classroom Placement

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 be allowed to teach one class period over a minimum of 5-10 days (5-10 hours total).

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 of you to be submitted to the SPU supervisor.

Course Work

The unit plan must consist of 5-10 lessons (or hours) taught over a minimum of 5-10 days. 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 detailed information will be provided in the course syllabus, (mailed after candidate registers).*

SPU Supervisor

A university supervisor will be assigned to each candidate and will be available throughout the quarter for feedback on portfolio pieces. The supervisor will also complete a minimum of two formal observations.

Coursework Completion Deadline:

Approximately 10 weeks from Course Start Date – for specific dates contact endorse@spu.edu