



AREI Field Experience

Field experiences are opportunities for the student to apply coursework theory in environments that allow for increasing levels of responsibilities. The field experience should relate to the student's professional goals, should provide the opportunity to interrelate theory and practice, and should prepare the student for daily classroom responsibilities. In general, the purpose of a field experience is to provide directed activities, exposures, and interactions with the intent of sharpening the cognitive and affective understanding of the pupil-teacher relationship.

More specifically, the intent of the field experience is to provide each student an opportunity to:

- determine if teaching is a matching career
- participate in learning environments and experiences
- deepen understanding of the theory-practice connection
- observe how academic, social, physical, and emotional factors influence student learning
- experience different teaching and management strategies and to begin to develop/determine appropriate strategies that match a beginning teacher's views about learning and classroom management;
- test and apply learning theories in an instructional environment

Participants will be required to complete 25 hours of field experience relevant to the alternative licensure area you are pursuing concurrent with the AREI modules. Field experience must include interaction with K-12 aged children and include experiences such as observing, actively participating, and engaging with instructional practice. Field experience sites must be pre-approved using the ***Field Experience Approval Request Form*** and could include the following:

- Public Schools
- Private Schools
- Camps
- Before and After School Programs
- Student Intervention Programs
- Summer School
- Preschool (limited to PK-12 World Language)

Available to you is a letter you can provide to potential Field Experience sites to provide teachers and schools with information about the AREI program. You will find this letter in the Field Experience documents folder on the Field Experience home page.

Documentation of the field experience will be evidenced by completing the ***Field Experience Log and Field Experience Portfolio***.

The *Field Experience Log* is a compilation of observation dates and times. It is also a brief summary of the site characteristics, population of children served and nature of the field experience. You are required to log 25 hours of field experience. You may submit as many Field Experience Logs as needed, but the Cooperating Teacher and/or Site Supervisor must sign each log. Upon completing all 25 hours, please scan in the field experience log and upload it to your AREI account in the appropriate place.

The *Field Experience Portfolio* is a detailed account of the activities that you engaged in during your field experience. These entries will be submitted on-line and follow the same writing requirements.