

University of Minnesota Crookston
Teacher Education Unit
Field Experiences Requirements: Observational and Practicum

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Field experiences play a critical component in the preparation and continuing development of teacher candidates in the content, pedagogical knowledge, skills, and dispositions. At UMC, the teacher candidates' field experiences are frequent, begin early and continue throughout their licensure program. All candidates are engaged in two different levels of field experiences prior to student teaching. Each field experience provides candidates with different levels of responsibilities and opportunities to apply, integrate and demonstrate content knowledge and pedagogical knowledge, skills, and dispositions.

Observational experiences: Candidates observe and actively participate in a variety of early childhood education programs and school-based settings of different age and grade levels.

Practicum experiences: Candidates observe, practice, and demonstrate best practices through planning and implementing a variety of activities/lesson plans and unit planning; assessments; and collaborate with colleagues, professional staff and parents. Cooperating teachers and course faculty/university supervisor will share supervision responsibilities and evaluation.

Field Experience Requirements:

Teacher candidates must complete a minimum of 100 field experience hours prior to student teaching that includes:

- a. at least 60 field experience hours that are aligned to the scope and content of the licensure field sought;
- b. experience with students who differ in race, ethnicity, home language, and socioeconomic status;
- c. experience with students with a range of exceptionalities, including students on an individualized education plan.

Disposition: Practicum Form