

A Re-Imagined Teacher Education Program's Alternative Field Experience

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Western  Education

Alternative Field Experience

What is the AFE?

Where is the AFE completed?

How is an AFE arranged?



a field placement or research or leadership project, in support of specialty courses, or, with approval, another aspect of teacher development

*3 + 4 weeks; international, interdisciplinary
teacher-candidate led, faculty arranged*

Program Perspectives

Credits

Required Outcomes

Partnerships & Transferable Skills



experiential credit courses towards BEd

collaboration, support, accessible education

*preparing candidates outside the classroom and
making connections between education and
communities*

Learning Outcomes and Objectives

... as identified by second year
Teacher Candidates



classroom management, collaboration, lifelong learning, supporting students with exceptionalities and/or language needs, building relationships, resource development, learning about education outside the classroom

approximately 70% of teacher candidates complete the AFE in a non-teaching setting

Learning Outcomes and Objectives

Handout



Faculty-identified Outcomes vs. Student-identified Outcomes: Which is which?

Teacher candidates report on their experience by reflecting on their objectives

1. Gain mentorship in the field of education outside of a classroom setting
2. **Explore other subject or age settings to determine if one will pursue additional qualifications**
3. Articulate specific objectives, pedagogies, and transferrable skills in preparation for interviews
4. Explore experiences that will bring unique experiences to future classrooms upon graduation
5. **Understand the roles of non-classroom staff in schools**
6. **Discover similarities and differences between educational settings**
7. **Try other professions to determine what one's next career steps may be**
8. Network with professionals in the field of education who can support throughout one's career
9. **Strengthen teaching skills and define philosophy to become the best educator**
10. Enrich knowledge of the broad communities in which one will work

Reflections

What did Teacher Candidates identify as gained knowledge/skills?

How does this relate to the program's goals for the AFE?



teacher candidates articulate and report on their own learning and gaps in learning

co-discovering the field of education

professional relationships with colleagues, self-growth, leadership

Next Steps

- What actions are being taken?
- How have final reports informed program changes?
- Does field-integrated learning continue?



highlighting areas of education through human libraries and professional development

promoting professional reflection and goal-setting through Annual Learning Plans

practicum, transition to professional practice (T2P), AFE, community volunteering (CCC)

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