GPE Field Experience Information

To meet PA Department of Education and accrediting agency requirements, field experience and internship sites must be approved before students can begin to log hours. Several weeks before the start of courses that include field hours, the Field Experience Coordinator (FEC), Amanda Sigel, will send more detailed information so that you can determine whether or not you will be able to meet the requirements with students in your own classroom.

**Note about International Settings:** If you are working outside of the United States, see separate guideline document.

If you have a **teaching position**, and students in the focus population are not on your roster, you can begin making informal inquiries with your principal and colleagues with the goal of spending time observing/assisting with students in the focus population. Email your plan for meeting field experience hours to the FEC. Include email addresses for your principal and mentor teacher (if applicable). The FEC will send a confirmation email to your principal/district. In cases where the graduate student does not have a permanent teaching position with the hosting school district, the FEC will send a request to the district office.

If you are a **day to day, building or long-term substitute**, pass that information on to the FEC along with starting and ending dates, when applicable.

If you are **not currently teaching**, with your input, we will assist you in finding a suitable and convenient field experience site. If you are not a permanent employee, do not reach out to US schools on your own, please! Questions about your specific situation are welcome by phone (717-691-6031) or email.

**Clearances** – Sites that include students under the age of 18 require that Messiah College has a copy of your most recent clearances and negative TB result. Email these items in to Allyson Patton. See separate guidelines for international students here.

**Field Experience Supervisor** – The course instructor serves as the supervisor for the field experience. The supervisor is responsible for assessment of the field experience.

**Field Experience Mentor** – For courses that include field experience hours and the special education internship. Mentors agree to host and/or share their expertise in the field by providing opportunities to observe/assist in classrooms that include students in a particular course’s focus population.

**Special Education certification** – field experience/internship hours are spent with one or more students in your intended certification grade band (PK-8 age range is birth to 14; 7-12 age range is 11-21)

**Field Experience Database** – a growing list of sites that have hosted GPE students in the past is available in MCSquare - Graduate Student Tab; Self-Service; Student Services; Field Experience GRADUATE EDUCATION Site Database
Field Experiences

EDME 504 – Experience consists of student-arranged interviews conducted with a parent, an educational professional, and a community partner who work with children and adolescents from your area of concentration. 20 hours

EDME 521 – Student spends 2-3 hours/wk beginning with observation, then design/teach 3 lessons. 20 hours

- ESL program specialist – 20 of the 80 total hours for 521 & 532 must be completed in a school setting under Pennsylvania standards. The remaining hours (60) may be completed outside the public school setting, so that they have the freedom to choose any teaching context in their internship course (532).
- MC TESOL certificate - can work with English Language Learners in programs (community, ministry, summer, higher education) that serve adults or children.

EDME 522 – 20 hours

- ASD Endorsement – complete field experience hours in a school setting with at least one student who is on the autism spectrum
- MC ASD certificate – complete field experience in any setting with children or teens with ASD

EDME 526 – Field experience hours are spent with individuals whose disabilities are more severe, many times intellectual disabilities. In schools, low incidence students are often placed in life skills or MDS classrooms. Some teachers are not able to complete the requirement in their own district. Other options are community settings such as church ministries or group homes. Spending time with an individual in the low incidence population who is an acquaintance or the child of an acquaintance is also permitted. Since the low incidence population is small, making arrangements for this experience can be the most challenging. Don’t give up! 20 hours

EDME 527 – In general, field hours are spent with individuals who have been identified with social, emotional, and behavioral disorders. Frequently students complete hours in emotional or autism support classrooms. In school settings, hours are completed with at least one student who has an IEP or 504 with a behavior plan. See notes for specific tracks bulleted below. 20 hours

- Special Education Certification Prek-8 or 7 to 12 – In addition to the requirement above, at least one identified student must be in the appropriate certification grade band (PK-8 age range is birth to 14; 7-12 age range is 11-21).
- Pennsylvania Department of Education ASD Endorsement K-12 – Field hours are completed with one or more students who have been identified with an autism spectrum disorder at any grade level.
• Messiah College Graduate Certificate in ASD – Field hours are completed with one or more individuals on the autism spectrum in a ministry, community program, after school program, child care setting, private school, or family setting.

**EDME 528** - Field experience hours are completed in a PA childcare setting with a 3 or 4 Keystone Star rating serving children in the age range of birth to 30 months. Here is a link where you can find centers in your area: [http://www.pakeys.org/pages/stars_centers.aspx](http://www.pakeys.org/pages/stars_centers.aspx). Students outside of PA will complete hours in a comparable setting. 20 hours

**EDME 529** – Field experience hours are completed with one or more students who have disabilities that are most prevalent. Some examples are specific learning disabilities, other health impairments including ADD and ADHD, and high functioning autism spectrum disorders. 20 hours

EDME 536 – 20 hours

• ASD Endorsement – complete field experience hours in a school setting with at least one student who is on the autism spectrum
• MC ASD certificate – complete field experience in any setting with children or teens with ASD

**EDME 537** – Students complete 2-3 hours of field experience weekly with one or more students (age range is 14-21) who have IEPs in learning or behavioral areas. 20 hours

**Internships**

**EDME 530** – Hours are logged in classroom(s) that include students in the appropriate certification grade band with IEPs. This does not include students with speech or hearing/vision impairment as those areas are separate certifications. While hours often can be completed in the graduate student’s own classroom, there must be at least one student in the focus population present. A Field Experience Mentor must be identified for regular conversations around the educational needs of identified students. 120 hours

**EDME 532** – Those who are completing the ESL Program Specialist Certification take EDME 542 concurrently. 60 hours

• ESL program specialist – 20 of the 80 total hours for 521 & 532 must be completed in a school setting under Pennsylvania standards. If the 20-hour field experience in 521 was in a Pennsylvania public school, then the internship can be with any English Language Learner program.
• MC TESOL certificate - can work with English Language Learners in programs (community, ministry, summer, higher education) that serve adults or children.