



NAZARETH COLLEGE
School of Education
Office of Clinical Experience and Partnerships

Field Experience Guidelines

Field experience is a foundational clinical experience that provides opportunities for teacher candidates to **observe** and **engage** in the teaching and learning processes in classrooms/schools. While most teacher candidates at this level would have already taken some initial program coursework, **this clinical experience might be one of the first times they are directly engaging with children as a part of education coursework.**

A teacher candidate completing their field experience can provide one-on-one and/or small group support to learning depending on the School-Based Teacher Educator's (SBTE) perception of the teacher candidates' readiness and on the needs of the SBTE and the learners. Teacher candidates who currently hold a teaching certificate are expected to engage at a higher level of involvement.

Teacher Candidate Suggested Activities

- ❖ Working one-on-one with a student or in small groups
- ❖ Reading to students
- ❖ Gathering/recording student responses to stories or activities
- ❖ Identifying student strategies in learning
- ❖ Developing a small piece of instruction
- ❖ Making a focused observation of students to provide information to teachers
- ❖ Giving a demonstration as part of the School-Based Teacher Educator's lesson
- ❖ Researching information on student needs
- ❖ Preparing materials for a lesson
- ❖ Writing an informal case-study IEP project (if relevant)

Please note: Teacher candidates **might have particular course assignments that ask them to engage with learners in particular ways**, e.g. reading a book to a small group of learners, developing and/or teaching a lesson in a particular content area. Nazareth College faculty structure assignments so they are congruent with class activities and content.

School Based Teacher Educator Responsibilities

- ❖ Sign the teacher candidate's attendance verification sheet.
- ❖ Rate the teacher candidate's professional behaviors by completing the online professional behavior assessment at the end of the placement.
- ❖ Share any concerns about the teacher candidate and/or experience with the Office of Clinical Experiences and Partnerships.
- ❖ Encourage the teacher candidate to take the appropriate initiative and become actively engaged in classroom activities.
- ❖ Provide opportunity for the teacher candidate to complete course learning activities/tasks.
- ❖ Provide time for consistent interaction with the teacher candidate.