

Nazareth College Student Guidelines for Field Experiences

Office of Field Placement Services
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Purpose

Experience in schools prior to student teaching is a critical component of students' learning about schools, children and adolescents, and teaching.

New York State Education Department requires that programs leading to teaching certificates include at least 100 hours for initial certification and 50 hours for additional certifications. Programs that simultaneously prepare for more than one certification area have more hours. These field experiences must be related to courses in an approved program of study. The number of hours will vary from course to course.

Level of Involvement

This field experience is primarily direct observation of teaching and learning. A pre-service student might provide one-on-one and/or small group support to learning depending on the needs of the classroom teacher and the learners and the classroom teacher's perception of the pre-service student's readiness. Students with teaching experience are expected to engage at a higher level of involvement.

Suggested Activities

- Listening to and reading to students
- Gathering/recording student's response to stories/activities
- Identifying student strategies in learning
- Developing a small piece of instruction
- "Kidwatching" to provide information to teachers
- Giving a demonstration as part of a lesson
- Researching information on student needs
- Assisting on a field trip
- Preparing materials for a lesson
- Writing an informal case-study IEP project (if relevant)

Suggested Activities

Unique to students in the Educational Technology Specialist program

- Observe and prepare field notes
- Prepare instructional materials
- Work with a small group of students
- Demonstrate a technique
- Monitor practice in a lab
- Conduct research that will enhance a lesson
- Share individual work as a guest presenter

Expectation of Student

- Participate fully in the opportunities provided in the classroom for observation/participation.
- Maintain confidentiality of all student information.
- Abide by the rules of dress and professional behavior, and procedures of the building.
- Fulfill course requirements as determined by the course instructor.

Expectation of Teacher

- Provide opportunities for the student to complete course activities.
- Verify hours spent in the field placement by signing the attendance verification form.
- Share concerns with faculty member or field experience office.

Nazareth College Student Professional Expectations

It is important you remember that you represent both yourself and Nazareth College as you interact in local school districts as an observer. With this in mind, please be mindful of the following:

- It is your responsibility to contact your assigned teacher as soon as you receive placement information. You may contact your teacher by telephone or e-mail. Please find e-mail addresses on the school district website. If you are unable to connect with your teacher within one week after receiving placement notification, please feel free to personally visit the school. Go to the main office and identify yourself and the reason for your visit.
- Please arrange a schedule with your assigned teacher that is mutually beneficial to you both. Remember the teacher is counting on you to arrive as scheduled. If extenuating circumstances require a change to your arranged schedule, please notify the teacher immediately so he/she will know you are not arriving. Your field observation is a professional responsibility and should be treated as such.
- It is your professional responsibility to inform both the teacher and the Office of Field Placement Services, as soon as possible, if you are unable to return to your placement to complete your observation hours.
- Professional behavior also extends to dressing appropriately for your school environment. You will abide by the rules of dress for the building in which you are placed. Avoid clothing that is provocative and tight. No flip flops, t-shirts, or shorts should be worn. Please remove body piercing prior to your arrival. You are a role model for the students with whom you interact.
- Remember you are a professional guest in this building. Please be willing to assist as needed e.g. you may be asked to help with bus duty, make copies, clean-up, etc. Please be respectful of your teacher's requests.
- You are expected to behave, respond and communicate only in those ways which respect each student's rights to safety, confidentiality and privacy. Any conversations about a student should take place only in the school building with professional personnel.