

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is a “field experience”?**

Field Experiences are designed to prepare the teacher candidate through classroom experiences that help the candidate to make the connection between the Education, Health and Human Performance (EHHP) Teaching and Learning Standards and the ADEPT Performance Standards in Academic/Theoretical Work to develop competence necessary to begin their teaching careers. They provide opportunities for candidates to apply knowledge, skill, and dispositions in a variety of settings appropriate to the content and level of each program of study.

### **Who determines student placement (partner school and host teacher assignments)?**

It is the sole responsibility of the Office of Student Services and Credentialing (OSSC) to negotiate placements involving the teacher candidate and our partner school and host teacher. The OSSC serves as the single point of contact between our partner schools and the School of Education, Health and Human Performance (SEHHP) in relation to the placement needs of the SEHHP's programs of study.

### **Will I be placed at a school near the College of Charleston campus?**

The OSSC currently has contractual agreements with Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Two school districts. The OSSC makes a concerted effort to provide diverse field experiences to the teacher candidate, which may include field experience placements among all three school districts at various points in the teacher candidate's program of study.

### **Do I need access to a vehicle to complete my field experiences?**

While students are not required to have access to a vehicle to complete field experiences having access to a vehicle will be a tremendous benefit to the teacher candidate. All students are responsible for arranging their own transportation to placement schools (carpooling, taxi services, CARTA, etc.). If a teacher candidate does not have access to a vehicle and is registered for a course involving field experiences, it is important for the teacher candidate to immediately communicate this information to the field instructor and the OSSC.

### **How are hours scheduled with host teachers for field experiences?**

How hours are scheduled with partner schools and host teachers depends primarily on the program of study. For example, teacher candidates in our special education and secondary program are responsible for scheduling hours directly with host teachers once assignments have been received. Teacher candidates in our early childhood, elementary and middle grades education programs will report to their host schools and teachers on the days/times predetermined by the field course.

### **How early can I begin reporting to my host teacher?**

To allow administrators, teachers and students of our partner schools to “settle into a routine,” teacher candidates should report to their host teacher(s) sometime after Labor Day during the fall semester and during the third week of the January for the spring semester. Teacher candidates should make contact as soon as they receive contact information for the host teachers so that planning may begin.

### **May I be assigned to a new host teacher if I am unable to schedule hours with my current host teacher due to conflicts in with my work schedule?**

Once a teacher candidate has been placed with a host teacher, the placement is firm and will not be adjusted without approval of the Director. Although the OSSC certainly understands the need for some teacher candidates to work on a

part-time basis, it is important to choose a job with flexible hours so all requirements of their program of study may be met, including field experiences.

**What is acceptable attire for experiences?**

It is important to remember teacher candidates are guests in our partner schools. Field experiences occur because school administrators and host teachers are willing to extend this professional courtesy to the teacher candidates from the College of Charleston. In turn, it is highly important to be respectful of the learning environment. This can be done, in part, by dressing appropriately and professionally to ensure teacher candidates are viewed as fellow educators. If you are unsure what constitutes professional attire, please seek guidance in the Career Center or search for dress codes for educators on school district Web sites.

**How many field experiences will I need to successfully complete before my clinical internship?**

It depends on the program of study and course schedule. In general, students will be expected to complete somewhere between two to five field experiences, which vary in their requirements depending on the program of study.