

**What is a field experience?**

A field experience is an opportunity to apply knowledge gained in the classroom with supervised practice in the field. The primary model of field instruction is a concurrent model, meaning you take classes at the same time you are in the field. State law requires 50 hours of field experiences before one student teaches; however, at Wartburg, education students will complete 100 hours of work in educational settings before student teaching.

**What is involved in a field experience?**

Each field experience will be different as they have their own objectives and goals. Your initial experiences require you to observe students in the classroom and how the teacher teaches. Over time the expectations pertaining to your involvement increase as you become more knowledgeable and comfortable with the teaching profession. Eventually, you will create and teach your own lessons. The progression of the field experiences is steady and will vary based on the ability and comfort level of each student.

**How does the decision for field placement occur?**

During the semester before your field experience, you will receive an email asking you to complete a Field Experience Placement Request Form. The form asks for information pertaining to your experience, background information, availability, learning objectives, and the settings and populations with whom you would prefer to work. The Office of Student Field Placements then considers your interests, preferences, background, and goals, along with the criteria required by schools and teachers, and matches you to a particular school district and teacher. The Field Office makes every effort to place you in a setting that provides you the maximum potential to grow personally and professionally. Communication via email will occur to notify the parties involved of the placements. Once the Field Office Coordinator visits your class and provides you with the necessary paperwork and information you may contact your placement and make arrangements to complete the experience.

**Who are the teachers that act as cooperating teachers for these field experiences?**

The teachers who serve as cooperating teachers do so voluntarily. They understand and value the opportunity to work with pre-service teachers. These teachers are selected by the Field Office based on their expertise, experience, passion for education and support for the Wartburg educational program.

**Will I need to have a car?**

Many field experiences occur within the Waverly area and are within walking distance. However, due to the sheer number of placements made and the requirements of the placements, students may need to have a car to perform field experiences. To increase your placement options, it is to your advantage to have access to a vehicle, or to be open to carpooling with other students, for travel to and from a school. Unfortunately, not having a car can limit your field placement options.

**Can I complete my practicum anywhere I want to?**

It depends. Generally, placements are made within a 40 minute radius of campus but placements may be made outside of this area due to extenuating circumstances. These requests need to be made with the Office of Student Field Placements.

**Can I create my own field placement?**

The Office of Student Field Placements is always interested in exploring new field placement opportunities and welcomes students' suggestions. However, the Field Office must approve all field experience sites. Once you inform the Field Office of your interest in a particular school, that site will be explored for its capacity to provide a learning opportunity for you that meets the requirements of the field experience. Students should not contact teachers or schools directly to establish a placement.

**Can I request a change of a placement?**

Field experiences are made with the interest of all parties considered. These placements are NOT negotiable. However, if an extenuating circumstance occurs please contact the Field Office.

**Am I graded on my field experience?**

This depends on what field experience you are completing. Those that have their own course number are graded on a Pass/Fail system. However, if you fail the experience you will have to repeat the field experience. If the field experience is directly part of your class your professor has authority over how the field experience may or may not impact that classes' grade. If you are not meeting the expectations set by Wartburg College and the educational system you are working with the Office of Student Field Placements may need to intervene. You will be made aware of your deficiencies and resources and opportunities to rectify the situation will be provided, but if the problem persists or if it is a major issue the placement may be terminated.

**How many hours do I have to complete for my diversity requirement and where can I complete it?**

Students must accumulate at least 25 hours in a diverse setting in order to graduate. Generally, these placements occur in virtually any of the schools in Waterloo. However, students may satisfy their hours during May term classes such as those that go to New York City. There are other possibilities that satisfy these requirements, but requests must be made to the Office of Student Field Placements and Education Department before the experience begins.

**What happens if I misplace a form for my placement?**

Many of the forms that are needed for field experiences and student teaching can be found on the home website for the Office of Student Field Placements. If a particular form cannot be located, please contact the Field Office.

**Direct any other questions you may have to the Field Office Director.**