

## **Frequently Asked Field Experience Questions:**

### **What is Field Experience (FE)?**

Field experience is an opportunity to apply the knowledge gained in the classroom with supervised practice in the field. The primary model of field experience instruction is a *concurrent model*, meaning you take classes while you are in the field. State law requires 80 hours of field experience before a pre-service teacher is allowed to student teach. At Wartburg, Elementary focused students will receive 100-hours in the field prior to student teaching. Secondary focused majors will meet the 80-hour state requirement.

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

Field Experiences are tied to specific courses and established by expectations of each professor. Your initial experience requires you to observe students in the classroom and see how their teachers teach. Over time, the expectations pertaining to your involvement increase as you become more knowledgeable and comfortable with the teaching profession. Eventually, you will be able to create and teach your own lessons. The progression of field experience is steady and will vary based on the ability and comfort level of each Wartburg student.

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

During the semester before your field experience occurs, you will receive an email asking you to complete an informational form via EMAILMEFORM. The form asks for information pertaining to your experience, background, availability, learning objectives, and transportation. The Education Department then considers your previous placements, grade level, and content area to match you with the best school district and teacher. The department makes every effort to place you in a setting that will provide you with the best opportunity for maximum potential to grow personally and professionally. Communication via email will occur to notify both parties involved of their placements. If you have more than one placement per term, you will receive multiple emails notifying you of each field placement.

### **Who are the teachers that host field experiences?**

The teachers who serve as field experience hosts do so voluntarily. They understand the importance of mentoring future teachers and take pride in helping Wartburg College. These teachers are selected based on their expertise, experience, passion for education, and support for the Wartburg Education Program. Teachers are required to have a minimum of 3 years' teaching experience and be recommended by their administrator before they are allowed to host our students. Hosting teachers receive renewal credits toward licensure at the end of each term.

### **Will I need a car?**

Some field experience placements occur within the Waverly area and are within walking distance. However, due to the sheer number of placements made and the requirements of these placements, students may need to have a car to get to their placements. To increase your placement options, it is to your advantage to have access to a vehicle or be open to carpooling with other students if that can be arranged. Not having a car can limit your field placement options, including a diverse placement (25-hour requirement).

**Can I complete my practicum (FE) anywhere I want?**

No. Placements are made within a 40-mile radius of campus with contracted schools. Students should not contact teachers or schools directly to establish a placement.

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

Field experiences are made with the interest of all parties considered. If an extenuating circumstance occurs, you may contact either the Partnerships Coordinator or Office Coordinator in the Education Department.

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

Yes. Corequisite field experience students receive a Pass/Fail for the non-credit field experiences. FE host teachers will complete a midterm/final evaluation per each placement. Evaluations and successful completion of hours determine the Pass/Fail grade. If you are not meeting the expectations set by the Wartburg Education Program, an Intervention could occur. In a set meeting with the Department Interventionist, you would be made aware of your deficiencies and a plan would be made to rectify the situation giving you the opportunity to improve. If the problem persists and/or the process to improve is not followed, the placement could be terminated. If you fail the field experience, you will need to repeat the placement which may impact that course grade and academic plan.

**How many hours do I have to complete for Wartburg's diversity requirement and where are those completed?**

Students must accumulate at least 25 hours in a diverse setting to graduate. A diverse placement refers to a context distinct from a student's K-12 experience. For some students that may be a rural Iowa school. For most students it will be Waterloo, Oelwein, Charles City, or Hampton. These may change from year to year based on State data.

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

Many of the forms that are needed for field experiences can be found on the Wartburg Education website. <https://www.wartburg.edu/education>

If a particular form cannot be located after checking the site, please contact the Education Office Coordinator or the Partnerships Coordinator.

Direct any further questions to your professor or the Education Office Coordinator/Partnerships Coordinator.