Field Experience Policy

It is required that teacher candidates in courses with field work will complete their field work assignments in a timely and professional manner. The following policy applies to those teacher candidates taking courses with field work assignments.

The purpose of the field placement/field experience is to provide an opportunity for teacher candidates to grow professionally and to apply their knowledge of pedagogy, content area instruction, instructional strategies and professionalism in diverse school settings. The teacher candidate is expected to demonstrate proficiency in all of these areas as evidenced by assessment instrument(s) used in evaluation of the teacher candidate in the assigned placement.

All teacher candidates enrolled in a course that includes a field placement will be responsible for meeting the same course requirements for field work regardless of their employment status. Teacher candidates who work in an area school district or another educational environment will be required to complete their coursework outside of their place of employment.

The completion of the minimum number of hours of field work as required by the individual courses is required for a passing grade. Teacher candidates who do not meet the minimum requirement of field hours as required by the course will automatically receive an “F” for that course. Missed field placement hours cannot be made up without special permission from the instructor, the Director of School Partnerships, and the cooperating teacher. Teacher candidates must remain in the assigned placement throughout the semester or as required by the instructor. This means that teacher candidates must complete their required hours weekly for the duration of the semester or for the duration of the placement. Teacher candidates may not alter their assigned schedule or placement in any way.

Teacher candidates may not choose their own field placements. Field placements are assigned by the Director of School Partnerships or by the Field Placement Coordinators. Teacher candidates begin field work when they receive the approval from the Director of School Partnerships.

Absences

1. Regular, prompt attendance is expected.
2. In the event of an absence, email your field placement coordinator, your mentor teacher, campus coordinator, and professor prior to the absence.
3. If absent, you must obtain approval for make-up plan for your professor.
4. Your placement will be cancelled if you accumulate more than two absences.

Failure to complete hours by deadlines/more than two absences: The placement will be cancelled. The placement may be reinstated if the absences were due to special circumstances, such as an extended illness. Permission from the mentor teacher, campus administrator, professor, and Director of School Partnerships will be required for reinstatement. Teacher candidates who do not complete the required field experience hours will receive an “F” for the course. No partial credit will be given for completing less than the required hours.

Teacher candidates with Two or More Absences

Teacher candidates with two or more absences will have their field placement put on hold pending a conference to discuss their field placement status. Failure to meet with their field placement coordinator or the Director or School Partnerships may result in the loss of their field placement.

Source: UTSA Teacher Preparation Program Handbook

http://education.utsa.edu/certification_program/teacher_education_handbook/