

PDE Field Experience Skills and District Collaboration Chart

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) requires expanded hours of field experience throughout the four-year teacher certification programs. This means that teacher candidates must spend many more hours in public school classrooms than has previously been required.

The purpose of this manual is to provide specific information with regard to each course field experience requirement. The information course charts identify activities to be completed by the teacher candidate in the public school classroom for each course. With this manual the classroom teacher will know why the student has asked to come into his/her class and what the student is to accomplish during the time in attendance.

The chart below explains the four stages of PDE field experience requirements.

Field Experience Stage	Knowledge and/or skill the teacher candidate is acquiring in this stage	Collaboration with PreK-12 schools to ensure a quality field experience
Stage 1: Observation Minimum of 20 hours	Observation skills, knowledge of child development	Students present the teachers in the observed classrooms with information from the professor describing the goal(s) and objective(s) of the observation.
Stage 2: Exploration Minimum of 20 hours	Observation and assessment skills, knowledge of child development and PA Academic Standards, skill in planning based on observations and standards, knowledge of child environments and ability to assess them, knowledge of community agencies and skill of advocacy, interacting and communicating with parents	Students present the teachers in the exploration classrooms with the professor's form outlining what is to be accomplished through this exploration. The teacher is encouraged to comment on this form to provide feedback with regard to the exploration experience(s).
Stage 3: Pre-Student Teaching Minimum of 150 hours	Knowledge of content areas and standards related to them, knowledge of integrated curriculum, ability to plan, implement, assess and reflect on lessons and activities for children, ability to communicate effectively with children, peers, parents and supervisors	Teachers are included in activity planning with University faculty prior to the beginning of the pre-student teaching experience. Teachers complete student evaluation forms and provide feedback for future experiences.
Stage 4: Student Teaching Minimum of 12 weeks – University requires a full semester or 15 to 17 weeks.	Ability to use skills and knowledge gained in stages one through three	Teachers discuss issues and activities with the student teacher.