

**Field Experience for Candidates in Initial Certification Post-Baccalaureate  
Early Childhood Education PreK-4 and  
Early Childhood Education PreK-4/Special Education PK-8 Dual Certification  
Programs**

All Lincoln University Education candidates are required to successfully complete a minimum 100 hours of the following field experiences, which will be embedded in program course work assignments. Field Experience Assignments are designed to address the competencies required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) for each specific program.

**Stages**

**1. *Observation (10 hours minimum)***

Students are observers in a variety of education and education-related settings including community-based child care, Head Start, early intervention, and school districts. Observations should occur in a range of school and early learning settings (e.g., urban, suburban, rural; high- and low-performing schools) so that students have a broad experience and learn as much as possible about pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade education learners and pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade education philosophy.

**2. *Exploration (10 hours minimum)***

This is an experience in which the candidate works under the teacher's supervision during individual tutorials or with a small group of students. Activities can include reading, math, and other subject matter experiences, tutoring children, small group conversations, outdoor play, and monitoring classroom routines and procedures.

**3. *Pre-Student Teaching (80 hours minimum)***

These teaching experiences are the precursor to student teaching during which candidates teach small groups of students in schools and early learning settings. This field experience is a combination of individual tutorials, small group instruction, and whole class instruction at the selected grade level over the course of the semester. Students work with materials they have prepared and created for classroom instruction.

Field Experience in Stages 1, 2, and 3 will be provided in the following courses: EDU 606, EDU612, EDU 614, EDU 661, EDU 604, EDU 601, EDU 607, EDU 623, EDU 625, EDU 622, and EDU 616.

One placement will be in a B-PreK setting.

One placement will be in a K-1 setting.

One placement will be in a grade 2-4 setting.

**4. *Student Teaching***

A minimum 14 weeks of full-time student teaching is required. At least one experience during Stage 3 (Pre-Student Teaching) or Stage 4 (Student Teaching) must include students with special needs in an inclusive setting.

At least one setting during Stage 3 or 4 will be in a public school or a PreK program sponsored by a school district. **No student may complete a field experience without all current clearances on file in the Graduate Education Programs Coordinator's Office.**