



CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

ELEM 494: Elementary Practicum Course Summary

Course Description:

ELEM 494 is an opportunity for education students to implement and assess inquiry-based instructional activities within an elementary classroom. This practicum will include individual, small group, and/or large group instruction. A minimum of 60 observation/engagement hours at assigned school(s) will complement the student's attendance at university-led weekly seminars.

Course Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

Engage in math assessment and inquiry-based instruction.

Engage in science assessment and inquiry-based instruction.

Practicum Student Requirements:

- Communicate with the mentor teacher to set a regular weekly schedule to complete a minimum of 60 hours in the classroom at a time that is mutually agreeable to the candidate, the mentor teacher, and the university supervisor.
 - This will be a regularly scheduled set of hours and will not vary weekly.
 - It will be reported on the Teacher Candidate Weekly Practicum Schedule Agreement, signed by the candidate and the mentor teacher, and submitted to the university supervisor within the first week.
 - The minimum is 6 hours each week over the course of the 10-11 week quarter.
 - Candidates may not start their field experience until they have had their orientation with their university supervisor.
- Participate in learning activities and assessments using inquiry-based learning methods and complete associated course reflections and assignments.
- Attend the Field Experience Orientation and all subsequent seminars led by the university supervisor. The university supervisor will inform the candidate of the date and location of the seminars.
- Complete the CWU Field Experience log detailing the time spent in the classroom. It must be updated weekly, and completed by the end of the student's time in the classroom. Directions can be found on the CWU Office of Field Experiences website at <https://www.cwu.edu/academics/field-experiences/student-resources/log-your-field-experience-hours.php>.
- WSP/FBI Fingerprint Clearance must be on file with OSPI and must be valid through the end of the EFC 330 quarter. <http://www.cwu.edu/teacher-certification/fingerprinting>.
- Purchase \$1M liability insurance through CWU, effective for the duration of EFC 330. <https://www.cwu.edu/academics/teacher-certification/field-experience-clearance/liability-insurance.php>.
- Upon completion of the course, the student is awarded a grade of either Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U). A "U" will be earned for not meeting the minimum requirement of 60 hours during the agreed-upon practicum schedule, and/or not completing the course assignments satisfactorily, and/or scoring a 1 on any items of the Teacher Candidate Attributes Scale at the final evaluation except for #14.

Mentor Teacher Requirements:

- Provide practicum students with opportunities to observe and participate in the duties and responsibilities of a classroom teacher, including participating in instruction and assessment.
- Provide practicum students with verbal and written feedback including strengths and opportunities for improvement.
- Complete the CWU Teacher Candidate Attributes Scale twice during the field experience, once near the midterm, and once near the end. Send a copy to the university supervisor for their review and grading determination. The university supervisor will then share the assessment results with the candidate.
- Collaborate with the university field supervisor if there are any concerns about the candidate's performance.
- Mentor teachers must have at least 3 years of certificated teaching experience, preferably in the same endorsement area as the candidate is pursuing. (WAC 181-78A-236).

CWU University Field Supervisor Requirements:

- Conduct 1-2 observations and/or visits and evaluations of the candidate's performance.
- Provide feedback to the practicum student on strengths and opportunities for improvement.
- Communicate with the mentor teacher any required assignments and assessments used in the field experience.
- Serve as a liaison between the university and the partner school.
- Arrange and conduct practicum seminars with their cohort of candidates to set expectations for field experience students, strengthen their skills and strategies, and to reflect upon the field experience with other candidates. The university supervisor will inform the candidate of the date and location of their seminars.
- Collaborate with the mentor teacher if there are any concerns about the candidate's performance.

If Concerns Arise:

Partner school personnel should communicate immediately with the University Field Supervisor if concerns arise. If they are not resolved, please contact the director of the Office of Field Experiences for assistance (Placements@cwu.edu).