

Field Experiences / Requirements

Field Experiences Required Prior to Student Teaching

In addition to student teaching, students participate in a variety of field experiences to become classroom ready. Many of these field experiences are part of the professional education courses. Thus, with their link to the professional education courses, field experiences are ongoing throughout coursework leading up to student teaching.

During fieldwork students are provided the opportunity to experience classroom instruction at various grade levels and in a variety of educational settings. The focus of field experiences is on active learning and is skill specific. Students visit a variety of classroom settings to observe classroom practices, and they work with students individually and in small groups.

Students are required to participate in a minimum of 50 hours of school related field experience in public and private school settings prior to student teaching.

Students are also expected to complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service and to participate in a minimum of 20 hours of professional development activities. Professional development includes attendance at education workshops and participation in UST student education organizations.

There are several ways that students develop reflective practitioner skills from their field experiences. First, field experiences are shared and discussed in professional education courses.

After each field experience students are required to document hours and reflect on their experiences using the *Field Experience Form*. The forms can be found in the reception area of the School of Education. The original form must be submitted to the Field Experience Coordinator who will carefully review and approve them.

For more details, please view the Field Experiences Brochure.

If you have questions or need assistance regarding field experiences at the University of St. Thomas, please contact Dr. Ana-Lisa Gonzalez, Director of Field Experiences at 713-942-3422 or via email algonzal@stthom.edu or you may contact Ms. Debbie Fernandez, Administrative Assistant at 713-525- 3829 or via email at Fernanda@stthom.edu.

Note: Before participating in field experiences school visits, students may be required to pass a criminal background check (this is dependent on the School District regulations).