

Field Experience

Neumann University Division of Education



Photo: Pennell Elementary

Field Experience– Division of Education & Human Services

Location: BMB Room 332B

Contact: 610.358.4518

Field Experience Focus:

The major focus of the Neumann University Field Experience Program is the preparation and placement of Neumann University students requiring field experience in a school or site setting for partial fulfillment of Education coursework and certification requirements prior to the culminating student teaching experience. Students have the responsibility for obtaining transportation, professional attire, and all required health verifications and clearances required for field experience (clearance information is available at BMB Room 332B or contact Louise Whitelaw at whitelal@neumann.edu).

Field Experience Purpose:

The purpose of the field experience is to provide students with an opportunity to relate their theoretical understandings to a real-world classroom environment. The field experience is an important aspect of the student's academic program. It enables him/her to continue to learn under the supervision of a professional in the field as well as allows students to apply and reflect upon academic knowledge gained.



Photo: Neumann University Child Development Center

Information on Professional Dress:

Neumann University's Career & Personal Development Center has provided an excellent handout (link below) illustrating professional dress, in particular business casual – which is appropriate for teaching. Students should always ask for the specific dress code policies at particular schools (such as warm-weather dress policies) – however, conservative business casual is typically acceptable for our partner schools. Students will discuss professionalism in great detail beginning in their first education course and throughout their academic program to support growth in this area. In addition, professionalism, policies, and dispositions required are explained in further detail in the Field Experience Handbook- accessible via Blackboard

<http://www.neumann.edu/career-development/ProfessionalDress.pdf>



Neumann Undergraduate teaching

Field Experience Continuum:

Stage 1: Observation 2: Exploration 3: Pre-student Teaching 4: Student Teaching

Education Students will take part in clinical field experience in a variety of school settings (Public, Private, Catholic, Charter, Special Education and in Preschool settings) each semester beginning in their freshman year. Students will gain experience in diverse settings (urban and suburban) while gradually assuming more responsibility in the field experience process. The culminating experience is the Student Teaching experience. Field Experience partner schools are in districts and schools typically within 15 miles from the campus- most close to the campus, but also include Philadelphia, Delaware and New Jersey partners.

Field Experience Stages

There are four stages of field experience, including student teaching. Each stage is progressively more intensive and requires the candidate to assume gradually more responsibility. The experiences should take place in collaborative settings to give candidates a flavor of the values, culture, and working styles of learning environments. This includes learning about the socio-emotional, cultural, linguistic, and academic traits of students.

Stage 1: Observation

Candidates are observers in a variety of education and education-related settings (e.g. community organizations, tutoring programs). This stage of field experience will occur before formal admission to the teacher education program. Students will have a broad experience in this phase and learn as much as possible about teaching and learning in their respective certification area. Students will be expected to reflect upon their observations and debrief with their course instructors throughout the field experience program

Stage 2: Exploration

This stage may be called the 'assistant' phase of field experience – because candidates will in this stage work under a certified teacher's direction with a small group of students. Activities could include tutoring, helping with reading assignments – and so forth. Students will actively apply their knowledge of pedagogy, professional conduct, and knowledge of diverse learners as they continue to progress and assume more responsibility in a classroom setting.

Stage 3: Pre-student Teaching

Pre-student is where candidates will work with small groups of students, in school or after school settings under the supervision of a certified teacher. For this phase of clinical (field) experience, candidates will be admitted to the education program, have taken at least one methods course, but will not be in full control of the class. In this setting, candidates will be preparing for student teaching by demonstrating and implementing aspects of planning and preparation, assessment, instructional delivery, maintaining a respectful and productive classroom environment and knowledge of learners, as well as professional conduct.

Stage 4: Student Teaching

Student teaching is the culminating teaching experience in the teacher education program. The student teacher will be closely supervised by faculty with knowledge and experience in the area of certification and a cooperating teacher with appropriate professional educator certification. Student teaching is defined as a set of organized and carefully planned classroom teaching experiences required of all candidates in a preparation program. If you would like information regarding the Neumann University Student Teaching program or process – please contact Dr. Richard Cunningham: cunningr@neumann.edu



Photo: Stratford Friends

Certification

In preparation for applying for PA certification, Neumann University Students will be preparing for and taking required certification tests. The Neumann University Education Department offers free services to help prepare students for the basic skills and content certification tests. Weekly workshops are offered in math, reading, and writing throughout the fall and spring semesters on a consistent basis. Workshops are also provided for basic skills tests and professional knowledge tests during weekends, and over spring, summer, and winter breaks.

Resources:

Test Preparation Workshop Schedule (for Neumann Community) – contact Mrs. Margie Pearse:
pearsem@neumann.edu

Pennsylvania Department of Education: www.education.pa.gov/

Career Ready

Recent Neumann graduates and alumni of the *Division of Education & Human Services* teaching majors have reported employment as teachers, principals, and site directors at local Catholic, independent, and public school(s), sites and districts including:

- Kennett Consolidated School District
- Unionville-Chadds Ford School District
- Garnett Valley School District
- Holy Family Regional Catholic School, Aston, PA
- Rose Tree Media School District
- West Chester Area School District
- The Woodlynde School
- The Elywyn Institute
- Chester-Upland School District
- Springfield School District
- Oxford Area School District
- St. Anthony of Padua Grade School
- Rose Tree Day School
- Chichester School District
- Interboro School District
- Penn-Delco School District
- South East Delco School District

- Ridley School District
- The Archdiocese of Philadelphia
- Friends Central School
- The Malvern School, Glen Mills
- St. Francis de Sales, Springfield, PA
- St. James Catholic School
- Gateway Lab Charter School
- Brandywine School District
- Springfield School District
- CADES

Recent graduates and alumni also report employment outside of the immediate area and into the tri-state area:

- Downingtown School District
- Coatesville School District
- Hatboro-Horsham School District
- Upper Darby School District
- School District of Philadelphia
- Charter Schools: Philadelphia, Wilmington, Chester
- Methacton School District
- Burlington School District
- Phoenixville School District
- Red Clay School District
- Sewell Elementary School, Mantua Township Public Schools, NJ
- Fort Pierce Central High School, FL

*If you are an alumnus/alumna of Neumann University and we do not have your place of employment listed above, please be in touch! Take a moment to contact us and connect with the Alumni Association:

<http://www.neumann.edu/alumni/default.asp>

In addition, Neumann University's Division of Education is committed to supporting recent graduates in career development via the following services:

1. **Career Management Series** – workshops, career development, interview skills, job listings & more

<http://www.neumann.edu/cms/>

2. **Education Division Alumni List Serve** – Alumni will automatically be placed on this list serve for 2 years following graduation from a teacher certification program (unless requested to be removed) where they will receive email blasts / newsletter updates about job listings, professional development opportunities, and various events that will be occurring on or near campus