Clinical Practice

Early Field Experience and Student Teaching Hours for SPED Candidates

The field experiences, practicum or clinical practice hours are scaffolded throughout the credential programs. SPED 502 is a required pre-requisite course for all credential programs and meets the Early Field Experience requirement. The course provides 18 hours of observation in the field in a variety of educational settings for individuals with disabilities across ages and includes general education environments. All SPED credential programs require two semesters of student teaching (SPED 980A/B/D) taken in the Fall and Spring semesters of the final year. In the Fall candidates are in student teaching placements 3 full days a week and in the Spring they are in their student teaching placements 4 full days a week. All courses have applied assignments that candidates implement within the practicum settings (e.g., curriculum based assessments, functional behavioral assessments, ecological inventories, unit planning etc). All candidates are also enrolled in a 4-unit seminar (SPED 970B) each student teaching semester, which helps support them in taking and passing the CalTPA exam and provides additional support for student teaching. This seminar focuses on helping the candidates apply what they are learning in their practicum settings by making materials, creating unit plans, designing schedules, creating communication boards, etc.

Clinical Practice Hours

Course Number and Number of Practicum/Field Work Hours

SPED 502: Early Field Experiences 18 hours (6 observations)

SPED 980A/B/D: Fall Student Teaching 270 hours (18 hours a week for 15 weeks)

SPED 980A/B/D: Spring Student Teaching 360 hours (24 hours a week for 15 weeks)

Total 648 Clinical Hours