

UNC Charlotte
College of Education
Office of Field Experiences
education.uncc.edu/ofe
Clinical Experiences Requirements

Undergraduate Candidates and Graduate Certificate Candidates

All teacher education candidates in all programs are expected to complete intensive and extensive early clinical experiences in public school classrooms. These classrooms serve students at a variety of grade levels, those with exceptionalities, and those from diverse ethnic, racial, gender, and socio-economic groups. These classrooms also expose candidates to various school settings, such as urban and rural schools, large and small schools, magnet schools, and schools facing atypical challenges.

1. **Standard Requirements:** Undergraduate candidates are expected to participate and document clinical experiences in three diverse school settings, with two of these occurring before the student teaching semester. Graduate Certificate candidates must participate and document clinical experiences in three diverse school settings, with two of these settings occurring before the graduate internship. Candidates are strongly encouraged to seek a variety of diverse settings prior to the final semester of their program.

Candidates who are lateral entry teachers and teacher assistants may be permitted to complete some of the assigned clinical hours in their own classrooms; however, these candidates will be expected to move beyond their own classrooms and schools for a significant portion of their clinical experiences. Candidates should check specific course requirements or speak with the course instructor for further information.

Alternative settings must be approved by the Office of Field Experiences. Alternative settings may include schools on different schedules, summer programs, and Saturday academic programs. A single clinical experience may occur in a *significantly different* classroom within the school of employment. Employed candidates are encouraged to seek assistance and support from their administrators for completing these academic and licensure requirements.

2. **Program and Faculty Responsibilities:** Early clinical experiences in diverse settings occur as part of coursework requirements. Each program decides on the specific clinical requirements for a course. These decisions include the type of activities to be completed and the number of hours required in each course. Some courses are designated as *clinical intensive* and have an additional assessment component. Classroom teachers provide documented assessment of candidate performance during clinical experiences.
3. **Candidate Responsibilities:** Candidates must document their clinical experiences in the following manner:
 - a. Complete the online registration process on the Office of Field Experiences website each semester.
 - b. Submit reports and documentation as required to the instructor, not the Office of Field Experiences. The *School Experiences and Attendance Log*, available on the Office of Field Experiences website, is provided for this purpose.
4. **Office of Field Experiences (OFE) Responsibilities:** This office assists candidates and faculty members in arranging school placements. OFE is responsible for providing each school with an official list of candidates who will complete clinical requirements in the building through a URL created specifically for each school. Instructor arranged clinical placements may not be included on the list. OFE must also maintain the database of all candidates' field experiences sites.