

**William Paterson University**

**Advanced Programs Field/Clinical Experiences**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR FIELD/CLINICAL EXPERIENCES**

**IN ADVANCED PROGRAMS**

A field or clinical experience in advanced programs must contain the element of applying knowledge in practice.

A field/clinical experience is defined as a requirement in the program that provides candidates with an opportunity to apply skills and understandings from coursework to an authentic setting that includes interactions with P-12 students, teachers, or clients and in which candidates are evaluated and/or observed.

Every candidate must have a field/clinical experience with p-12 students or clients from diverse groups.

Experience such as those below would be considered field/clinical experiences for advanced candidates:

- a) Clinic experience – e.g., the Reading Clinic, the Math Clinic, or the Learning Disabilities Clinic at WPU.
- b) Internship in school – e.g., 300 hours for principalship.
- c) Teachers' classroom experiences that include opportunities to apply skills and understandings from coursework – e.g., assignment graded by a professor that involves planning, implementation, and reflection experiences for master's degree candidates in their own classrooms .

## **Policies, Practices, Procedures, and Forms Utilized to Facilitate Advanced Candidates Experiences with P-12 Students from Diverse Groups**

**Policy:** All initial and advanced candidates must complete a field experience with P-12 students from diverse groups.

Each advanced program has designated the clinical experience within the program. This is assessment 4 for all advanced programs. This assessment is rated by field experience supervisors responsible for the experience.

**Note:** The majority of candidates in advanced programs conduct their field experiences in their own classrooms or schools surrounding William Paterson University which are known for their linguistic, ethnic, and cultural diversity. The Unit has taken steps to ensure that every candidate has the opportunity to work with diverse learners.

In 2007, the advanced program directors developed a form (see attached) to document the field experience/internship placements of candidates.

### **Procedures:**

1. Each semester candidates conducting the field experience submit the school and district's names in which they are conducting the field or clinical experience. This information is sent to the Advanced Program Director.
2. The program director obtains the diversity information on the school/district (data on the number of English Language Learners, students with disabilities, ethnicity, and gender of P-12 students in the placement) and reviews the data on the candidates' classroom/school.
3. In the case where a candidate is completing an experience in a setting that lacks ethnic, language, gender, or special needs diversity, the candidate is required to fulfill an additional experience of a minimum of 10 hours with diverse P-12 students.
4. Demographic data on the field experience setting for each candidate is entered into the Advanced Programs Diversity database.



**Guidelines for Using the Documentation of Diversity Forms for Advanced Programs and Endorsement Programs**

- a) Documentation of diversity has to be within the setting in which the program's field placement takes place (i.e., what we do for Assessment 4).
- b) The form should be completed during the semester in which the field experience is conducted for the setting in which it is conducted. If the setting is the WPU clinic, the clinic supervisor can provide the information needed. Otherwise the information for schools and districts should be available in the School Report Card website.
- c) If the candidate is not doing the field experience in a sufficiently diverse setting, he or she will be required to complete a 10-hour experience in an appropriately diverse setting and prepare a reflective report on the context of the setting and how it affects learning and instruction, etc.