

LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Chico

Early Public School Experience

As part of the Liberal Studies Major, you are required to have a minimum of 45 hours of early classroom experience. The *Standards of Program Quality and Effectiveness* stipulate that each prospective multiple subject candidate must be provided with:

- Planned, structured observations and experiences in K- 8 classrooms
- Field observations and experiences that are linked to the content of coursework in the program
- Opportunities to reflect on, analyze and discuss their K-8 observations and experiences in relation to course content in one or more subject matter courses
- Experiences in the classrooms that represent California’s diverse student population
- Certified classroom teachers

To meet these requirements, the professional preparation programs in the School of Education, have developed pre-requisite courses to enhance the experience and satisfy the state requirements (please refer to the table below for the program specific course information).

Program	Early Experience Requirement
Multiple Subject EDUC◆	EDTE 255: K-12 Introductory Classroom Experience (45 hours of early experience embedded)
Bilingual MS & SS PSED◆◆	45 hours* of early classroom experience prior to enrollment in EDTE 440: <i>Practicum in Multilingual/Multicultural Classroom Settings.</i> (*will accept EDCI 110 or EDTE 255 for first 45 hours)
Special Education PSED◆◆	45 hours * of early classroom experience prior to enrollment in SPED 596: <i>Field Experience – General and Special Education.</i> (*will accept EDCI 110 or EDTE 255 for first 45 hours).
Tri-Placement PSED◆◆	45 hours* of early classroom experience prior to enrollment in EDTE 440: <i>Practicum in Multilingual/Multicultural Classroom Settings.</i> (*will accept EDCI 110 or EDTE 255 for first 45 hours)

*NOTE: See back for 45-hour experience guidelines

- ◆EDUC - Department of Education - Tehema 101 – Deborah Summers, Chair
- ◆◆PSED – Professional Studies in Education - Tehema 401 – Terri Davis, Chair

Liberal Studies Program
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***45- HOUR EARLY CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT**

The 45 hours of early experience required by all programs must satisfy the guidelines listed below. The experience must:

- Be program appropriate (elementary level for Multiple Subject; secondary level for Single Subject; bilingual setting for Bilingual program candidates.
- Be completed within the last four years prior to professional preparation program entry
- Have at least 30 hours (2/3 of the total hours) in traditional public school setting, observing and/ or aiding a certified classroom teacher
- Have at least 15 hours (1/3 of the total hours) in a linguistically diverse classroom. These 15 hours could be part of the 30- hour requirement above. Bilingual candidates must have a minimum of 30 hours in a linguistically diverse classroom taught by a bilingual certified or BCLAD emphasis teacher.

Prospective multiple subject candidates may receive credit for a maximum of fifteen (15) hours in **one** of the following options:

- Experience in a private school
- Substitute teacher or teacher-of-record with written verification by a school administrator or teacher
- Tutoring or other educational service project or course that provides direct experience with students (i.e., special education setting, mentoring programs, specialized charter schools, magnet schools, after-school academic programs- **see program advisor for possible approval of settings not listed**)

Verification of 45 hour Early Experience

If you are completing hours outside a course setting you must provide a letter verifying the hours worked. Moreover, professional preparation programs require 2 letters of recommendation. At least one letter must be from a **credentialed teacher** or a **school administrator** who has seen you work with children in a school setting. This letter could serve both purposes: verification of hours worked and recommendation for entry into a professional preparation program. The letter must be on a school letterhead and provide the following information:

- Grade level
- Was it a culturally diverse classroom? (i.e., were there several English Learners, ethnic minority, low socioeconomic and/ or special populations pupils in the classroom?)
- Amount of hours worked in the classroom