Estrella Mountain Community College

EDU 220, 221, 222, 230, 236

Field Experience Frequently Asked Questions

*Thank you for agreeing to mentor an Estrella Mountain Community College (EMCC) education student. You are an invaluable partner in the training and development of highly qualified teachers. This guide was created to provide you with answers to questions we are frequently asked about this field placement. If you have questions not answered, please feel free to contact me,* ***Peter Turner, at 623-935-8705 or by email at*** [***peter.turner@estrellamountain.edu***](mailto:peter.turner@estrellamountain.edu)

*Terms and Definitions*

Preservice teacher

*A preservice teacher is an EMCC community college student completing field experience hours for an education class. While providing a variety of services in your classroom, such as tutoring small groups in academic subjects, working one on one with students, grading papers, creating bulletin boards, etc., this student is able to learn valuable knowledge and skills necessary to become an effective teacher. The community college student is different than a university student teacher intern. In most cases, the community college student is at the very beginning of their college career and is exploring career possibilities. While some of our students are older, returning students, many of our students are younger, traditional students who have not yet decided on a career path. Although community college students are not required or prepared to teach whole class lessons, their preparedness and experience varies.*

Cooperating teacher

*A cooperating teacher is the PreK-12 teacher in whose classroom the preservice teacher completes service learning hours. In most cases, the cooperating teacher provides the preservice teacher with a hands-on, practical experience in the career of education.*

Estrella Mountain Community College (EMCC) Faculty

*The EMCC faculty is the instructor who has assigned the EMCC student to complete the field experience. This is a course competency. While there may be faculty from a variety of other disciplines who incorporate a field experience into their course as a teaching and learning pedagogy, EDU faculty are responsible for providing a learning experience that provides preservice teachers with a firm foundation in the theoretical and practical issues and concerns facing public education.*

*Frequently Asked Questions*

What documents do I need to sign?

*The preservice teacher will bring two documents to you. The first is a log of their hours, and you are asked to initial after each date. When the preservice experience is over, then you are asked to sign the bottom of the sheet. The second document is an evaluation sheet. Please fill it our accordingly. If you are comfortable with the student in possession of it, then you can hand it back to them in a sealed envelope. If you are not comfortable with this, then it can be mailed to me at the following address:*

*Pete Turner, PhD*

*Occupational Education Division*

*Estrella Mountain Community College*

*3000 N. Dysart Rd.*

*Avondale, AZ85392*

What are my responsibilities as a cooperating teacher?

*Your most important responsibility as a cooperating teacher is to provide a positive learning experience for the preservice teacher. Many of these students are extremely excited about their chosen career path. While it is important to give them a solid understanding of the realities of teaching, please be sure to be encouraging of their decision to become an educator. Be willing to spend time answering questions about the profession and provide feedback to preservice teachers placed with you and answer questions related to their EDU221 field experience assignments; the MCCCD students are with you to learn.*

How many hours are required?

*It varies according to the course. EDU220 requires 20 hours; EDU221 requires 30, EDU222 requires 10, EDU230 requires 10, and EDU236 requires 20. Ideally this should take place over a period of 8 - 10 weeks.*

Who should I contact if there is a problem?

*Please contact me by phone or email listed on the first page.*

Are there specific requirements for the course?

*The preservice teacher is required to complete the field experience in a classroom setting under the supervision of a certified teacher. The focus of the field experience is to gain insights into how to meet the needs of diverse student populations and the complexities of teaching in today’s education settings. The student is expected to help you,* ***under your supervision at all times****,**in your efforts to meet the educational needs of your students.*

Does the student have to teach a lesson?

*The course does not require students to design and implement lessons. However, students with a wide range of dispositions, skills, and backgrounds take this course. The decision for the preservice teacher to design and implement a lesson is entirely up to the comfort level of both you and the preservice teacher.*

Can I leave the student alone in the classroom?

*Since they are not certified, preservice teachers are* ***NEVER*** *to be left alone with students.*

What kinds of activities can I provide for preservice teachers to learn and grow through the experience?

*Ideally, you can best help the preservice teacher by allowing him or her to:*

* *Observe classroom lessons, management plans in action, and students engaged in various activities in and out of the classroom (attend specials, recess, etc.)*
* *Assist in daily teacher responsibilities (e.g., taking attendance, grading papers, creating/working on bulletin boards, meetings, etc.)*
* *Assist in routine classroom activities after a period of observation (e.g., spelling tests, read alouds, transitions, working in small reading groups, working one-on-one or small group with tutoring)*
* *Debrief with you about classroom experiences/activities when time allows (daily and/or at the end of their required hours)*

*Thank you for providing your preservice teacher with this experience!*

*Peter Turner, PhD*

*Residential Faculty Member, Program Director*

*Teacher Education Institute*

*Estrella Mountain Community College*