

EVALUATION

This field experience requires Wartburg students to complete a two- to three-page paper about their observations, textbook readings, etc. Past papers have revealed this to be an eye-opening experience that has garnered much respect for teachers and others who dedicate their lives to working with exceptional persons.

THANK YOU

Thank you for hosting a field experience student for ED 211 Psychology of the Exceptional Child.

Student name

Student phone

Student email address

will be joining your classroom for this field experience.

Giving your time and talents to allow these students to observe and participate in your setting is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Wartburg School Partnerships Coordinator at 319-352-8406.



ED 211 Field Experience: Psychology of the Exceptional Child

The mission of the Wartburg College Teacher Education Program is to develop the talents and abilities of students to become *effective* and *reflective* teachers in lives of service and leadership as an expression of their faith and learning.



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in Teacher Preparation

Field Experience: Psychology of the Exceptional Child

ED 211 FIELD EXPERIENCE: PSYCHOLOGY OF THE EXCEPTIONAL CHILD

This four-hour field experience is designed as an integral part of the half-credit course called Psychology of the Exceptional Child. This course and corresponding field experience are required of all education majors. Wartburg students have options in selecting a setting that includes any of the following:

- Exceptional students who are partially or fully included in a general education classroom
- A self-contained special education classroom in a school setting
- A special education site that educates exclusively exceptional students
- A residential setting for exceptional students and persons not classified as students
- A work-site that incorporates exceptional persons
- A church or community organization that accommodates exceptional persons for recreational and/or social purposes
- A pull-out talented and gifted program
- A self-contained school designed for talented and gifted students

GOALS

For the Wartburg student participating in your classroom, the goals of this experience include the following:

- Observe students or adults who are considered exceptional persons.
- Participate and assist (if appropriate) during the time he/she is in the setting.
- Note strategies and methods used to best teach/work with exceptional persons in the chosen setting.

It is recommended that Wartburg students observe at least two different days for two hours each day. If four days at an hour each works better, that is also acceptable. We do not want students to observe only once, because this time frame may not give them an accurate picture of what transpires in your particular setting. The Wartburg students will write an observation paper at the conclusion of their field experiences. The goal is that students meld ideas from their course readings, presentations, and discussions to what they are observing about teaching exceptional persons in the field.

In most instances, this will be the first opportunity for Wartburg students to observe exceptional persons through the perspective of future teachers. Sharing your insights about your work with exceptional children or adults will be helpful to the Wartburg students. Your guidance and expertise will assist Wartburg students in gaining a better understanding of your role in educating or working with exceptional persons and their diverse needs as learners.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COOPERATING TEACHER

- Introduce the Wartburg student to the group he/she will be observing.
- Discuss events and experiences regarding the exceptional persons specific to the site (if appropriate) with the Wartburg student.
- Give the Wartburg student the opportunity to work one-on-one (if appropriate) with any exceptional persons. Teaming with the care provider is an acceptable option if direct service is not optimal.
- Sign the time-log sheet with the name of your site included.
- Contact the Wartburg Education Department immediately if any questions, concerns or problems arise.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE WARTBURG STUDENT

- Set up times to observe.
- Arrive on time and stay for the prearranged time period.
- If plans change, notify the contact person immediately.
- Be respectful and supportive of exceptional individuals by being confidential in all oral or written communication about the setting and students.
- Be prepared to write down observations of exceptional individuals in your chosen setting. Make inquiries when you don't understand what may or may not have transpired during observations.
- Act professionally when observing at the chosen site and assist as appropriate.