Early Childhood Field Experience Requirements

Early childhood education candidates complete three field experiences prior to student teaching: ECH 380, ECH 381, and ECH 480.

ECH 380

I. Catalog Description: **Field Work in Early Childhood Education I. (1-3, repeatable to 6)**
Clinical experience in pre-primary early childhood settings. Students explore and apply learning theories and practices as they observe and participate in daily classroom activities/instruction. 
*Prerequisites: ECH 271, 273, 274, departmental permission, fully accepted into Teacher Education Program. Co-requisite: ECH 351 and 353. Graded S/U only.*

II. Population Served: Early Childhood Education majors

III. Number of Required Field/Internship Hours: 30 hours

IV. Required Activities:
   A. Observation of different types of pre-primary programs and child care centers.
   B. Classroom visits/observations
   C. Internet site exploration - examples of what is available, discussion of how the information about the facility/program could be used as a teacher candidate and as future teacher

V. How Activities Are Assessed:
   A. Program observation reports include a detailed and thorough discussion of required components.
   B. Classroom visits/observations reports include a detailed and thorough discussion of required components.
   C. Internet information review includes a detailed and thorough discussion of required components.

ECH 381

I. Catalog Description: **Field Work in Early Childhood Education II. (1-3, repeatable to 6)**
Clinical experience in primary grade early childhood settings. Students explore and apply learning theories and practices as they observe and participate in daily classroom activities/instruction. Transportation not furnished. 
*Prerequisites: ECH 271, 273, 274, 380, departmental permission, fully accepted into Teacher Education Program. Graded S/U only.*

II. Population Served: Early Childhood Education majors

III. Number of Required Field/Internship Hours: 30

IV. Required Activities:
   A. Aiding in a K-3 classroom one morning a week for the semester for a total of at least 30 hours.
   B. Teaching at least one whole class and one small group lesson.
   C. Maintaining a time log with hours, activities and coursework connections recorded.
D. Reflecting on observations and resources that were noteworthy.
E. Completing a handwriting workbook

IV. How Activities Are Assessed:
A. All components of the course must be completed satisfactorily in order to receive a satisfactory grade. A checklist is completed by the WIU instructor.
B. Time log and reflections include a detailed and thorough discussion of required components.
C. The mentor teacher completes an evaluation of the candidate focusing on the WIU dispositions and skills in lesson delivery and classroom management.

ECH 480

I. Catalog Description: **Field Work in Early Childhood Education III. (1-4, repeatable to 6)**
Clinical experience in pre-primary and primary grade early childhood classrooms. Students explore and apply learning theories and practices as they observe, participate, and teach daily in the classroom. Transportation not furnished. **Prerequisites:** ECH 271, 273, 274, 380, 381, departmental permission, fully accepted into Teacher Education Program. Graded S/U only.

II. Population Served: Early Childhood education majors

III. Number of Required Field/Internship Hours: minimum 140 hours (6 weeks in an early elementary setting and 7 weeks in a preschool setting)

IV. Required Activities
A. Daily time and activity logs
B. Classroom observations
C. Weekly reflections to connect experiences with knowledge about teaching, children, development and learning,
D. Final reflection at the end of Session I that include thoughts about what was learned about oneself as a teacher, about children, and about teaching in general and three specific goals for Session II, using the course objectives and the Teacher Education Dispositions to guide their discussion.
E. Final reflection at the end of Session II to include thoughts about experiences throughout the semester and about preparedness for student teaching,
F. Minimum of 8 completed lessons-planned, implemented and evaluated in 6 curricular areas, with individual, small group and whole group interactions and strategies in Session I
G. Completion of the Western Teacher Work Sample in Session II.

V. How Activities Are Assessed:
A. 85% of total evaluation points possible is needed to earn a grade of “satisfactory.”
B. Each requirement is evaluated using the following criteria: Inclusion of all required information for each requirement, in a professional and timely manner; evidence of ability to connect theory to practice, practice to theory, evidence of ability to apply knowledge and skills gained through course to positively impact student learning and evidence of professional behaviors, attitudes, and responses
C. Positive formative and summative evaluations from cooperating teacher and WIU supervisors.