

GUIDELINES FOR WAIVING PRACTICUM OR STUDENT TEACHING

Early Childhood Intervention Specialist Program GRADUATE PROGRAM

Who can consider waiving student teaching?

1. Practicum (EST 576):
 - a. In order to petition to waive practicum, you must have experience for at least one-half year in a classroom with children who have disabilities and who are 8 years old or younger. Experience as a paraprofessional, instructional assistant, or substitute teacher (in the same classroom) will count toward this requirement. General education teachers who have taught in Pre-K to 3rd grade and who have had children with disabilities included in their classrooms may also petition to waive practicum.
2. Student Teaching (EST 586):
 - a. In order to petition to waive student teaching you must have:
 1. Taught at the pre-kindergarten or kindergarten-grade three level;
 2. Must have been a head teacher in a special education classroom for a minimum of one year by the time that student teaching would start; and
 3. Must have had this experience within the last three years.
3. Waiving both Practicum and Student Teaching:
 - a. The same experience cannot be used to waive both practicum and student teaching. You must have had at least two different experiences with young children who have disabilities.
 - b. Two different age groups for the two experiences are preferable when attempting to waive both field experiences.
 1. One with infants and toddlers, or one with pre-K
 2. One in K-grade 3
 - c. Please submit two separate petitions; one for each request that distinctly shows how different experiences are being used to waive EST 576 versus EST 586.

What do you do to waive a field experience?

1. Prior to applying for a student teaching waiver, students must have taken all required sections of the PRAXIS II exams. Attach documentation to your petition to verify this.
2. Obtain a College of Education and Human Services petition from the Education Student Services Center in RT 1401
3. Fill it out with all the specific details of your experience(s), including your position title, the age group you taught, the types of disabilities student in the classroom had, and where, when, and for how long you taught.

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4. Attach two letters from individuals who are (or were) directly responsible for supervising you, on official letterhead and signed with the writers' titles. The letters should include the following:
 - a. Your position
 - b. Length of time in position
 - c. Responsibilities
 - d. Age range of children
 - e. Disability range of children
 - f. A statement of your competencies in the following areas:
 - i. Using appropriate teaching methods, strategies, and materials
 - ii. Planning on both a long-term and daily basis
 - iii. Developing and implementing curriculum
 - iv. Evaluating children using both traditional and authentic assessment
 - v. Establishing warm, supportive relationships with children which facilitate the growth of competence
 - vi. Adapting teaching strategies to meet learners' diverse needs
 - vii. Guiding children's behavior appropriately, individually and in groups
 - viii. Interacting professionally and positively with other professionals and parents
 - ix. Writing and implementing Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)
 - x. Developing and implementing behavior management plans
5. Submit the petition to your advisor by August 15 or January 15 of the semester before you would complete student teaching if you were not waiving it. You should also apply for student teaching in case your petition is declined. (Online applications can be submitted between January 15 and February 15 for fall field experiences and between August 15 and September 20 for spring and summer internships.) Indicate on the application that you are petitioning to waive the experience. You can always withdraw your application later, but you will not be permitted to late apply.
6. **NOTE:** You must submit a separate petition for each field experience you wish to waive. If you are attempting to waive both Practicum and Student Teaching, you will need two petitions.

What else should I keep in mind?

1. Remember to complete all applicable portfolio requirements. If you are waiving one field experience (either Practicum or Student Teaching), you must have a Checkpoint 3 completed (by your advisor) so that you will be permitted to begin your other field experience. (A Checkpoint 4 Portfolio Review must be completed after you finish the field experience you will be taking.) For those waiving both experiences, you must have a Checkpoint #4 Portfolio Review completed (see your advisor). Passing Checkpoint 4 is required for your license.
2. In addition, you must complete all Praxis II exam requirements.
3. If you are also getting a Master's Degree in addition to your licensure, check with your advisor to make sure you have the sufficient number of credits to graduate. You must have a minimum of 32 hours.