

LS 406: Classroom Experience

What:

LS 406: Classroom Experience is course designed for pre-education students to experience the teaching environment, earn credit, and get a letter of recommendation for graduate school.

Why:

This class will help you answer question "Do I REALLY want to be a teacher?" Students will experience the daily challenges, successes, and frustrations of today's teachers and is a valuable tool for those thinking about becoming careers in education.

Placement:

Students find their own placements. Have your placement arranged by the end of the term prior to the term you are volunteering. If possible, take a resume to the teacher. If you don't have a resume, tell him/her something about you, your strengths, experiences, and how you see yourself fitting into a classroom.

Remember that most school sites will require a background and/or fingerprinting check. This may take up to 4-6 weeks so planning ahead is critical!

Credits:

This class can be taken any term at OSU-Cascades. It is a variable credit class. For each credit being given, the student must spend 30 hours volunteering in a classroom. In other words, 1 credit = 30 hours/term = 3 hours/week.

Student Learning Agreement:

Students must fill out the learning agreement with your mentor teacher and return this to Dianna Raschio (contact info below) by the first day of the term.

Notebook:

The notebook is due the Wednesday of finals week. Keep a notebook for your own information and reference as well as to turn in at the end of your experience. Include the following:

- Map of the classroom
- Schedule of a typical day
- Summary of each week
- Facilities in the building (gym, library, cafeteria, etc.)
- Media and technology aids available in the building

- Summary of a staff meeting if possible (or team meeting or school board meeting)
- Interview with mentor teacher about his/her philosophy of education or classroom management philosophy (one page) and
- Any other ideas that might be useful someday

This notebook will be returned to you after grading, so make it personally useful! Keep copies of handouts that your mentor teacher uses (with their permission), ideas for lesson plans, etc.

Grades:

A: Outstanding notebook. Shows creativity.

B: Good effort.

C: Average work, lack of detail or creativity.

Problems:

Usually, problems are a result of miscommunication. Try talking with the teacher to see if you can work out a solution. Should that fail, please talk to Dianna Raschio (contact info below). If possible, arrange a meeting with your teacher near mid-term time. What you are doing well? What could be improved?

Recommendations:

Elementary teacher candidates - Do five classroom experiences (in your undergraduate career):

- Early Elementary (K-2)
- Upper Elementary (3-5)
- Middle School
- Your Choice (try preschool if you're thinking about early childhood education)
- Your Choice

Secondary teacher candidates - Do three classroom experiences (in your undergraduate career):

- High School
- Middle School
- Your choice

Questions? Contact Dianna Raschio, LS Pre-Ed Advisor/Instructor for LS 406, 541-322-3105 or dianna.raschio@osucascades.edu