

**Department of Special Education**  
**Early Field Experience Requirement**

***Directions: Indicate on the verification form which option you have met to fulfill the Early Fieldwork Experience requirement and upload the verification form with the application documents in the “Other” section. Applicants will not be admitted into the special education credential program without proof of completing 45 hours of early fieldwork experience.***

Title 5 Regulations from the California State University Chancellor's Office *requires* candidates must demonstrate that they have fulfilled a minimum requirement of 45 hours of Early Field Experience prior to admission to an Education Specialist credential program.

This Early Field Experience requirement must be met by volunteer or work experience in an early intervention or K-12<sup>th</sup> grade classroom with a California Credentialed Teacher or a documented field experience deemed equivalent. The classroom experience should match the credential program for which you are applying (e.g., Early Childhood Special Education, Mild to Moderate disabilities, Moderate to Severe disabilities, Visual Impairment).

*Orientation and Mobility program applicants are exempt.* One of the required letters of recommendation may be submitted by your early fieldwork experience supervisor.

**For Intern applicants:** Due to new state regulations it is recommended that you complete the 45 hours in a classroom that has some students who are English Language learners.

Agencies that can assist you in finding early field experience locations are Pacifica School Volunteers (<http://pacificaschoolvolunteers.org/>) or San Francisco School Volunteers (<http://sfedfund.org/>). You may also call your local school district for more options. The Credential and Graduate Services Center has additional resources for volunteer placement programs.

## EARLY FIELD EXPERIENCE VERIFICATION FORM

The Early Field Experience is an important part of your application because it verifies that you have first hand experience in a special education classroom setting. All of our credential courses are based on your first hand experience and preliminary understandings of, or exposure to, the teaching/learning process in a special education classroom.

SF State permits a variety of options in meeting this requirement. The classroom teacher who has observed you in his/her classroom is in the best position to give us this information. Others who might be in position to assess your potential based on your classroom experience could be the school/district administrator.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Completion of 45 hours paid experience as a teacher aide or teacher assistant the majority of which time has been direct contact with students.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Completion of 45 hours as a classroom teacher either in a public school with an emergency credential, as a substitute teacher, or in a private school.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Completion of 45 hours working with students as a volunteer in a special education classroom with a credentialed teacher.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Completion of 45 hours working with students as a volunteer in a general education classroom that also included students with special education designation with a credentialed teacher.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ I have completed the following activity that is equivalent to above activities. Attach a description of this activity and verification of completion.

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SF State ID: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City/District: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Inclusive Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

### Environment:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Special Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate/Severe disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusion                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Impairment            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mild/Moderate disabilities        |   |

Print Teacher/Administrator Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Teacher/Administrator

