**Early Field Experience Information Sheet**

**English Subject Matter**

All Students Enrolled in the *English Subject Matter Option* are required to complete twenty hours of Early Field Experience in both a public middle school and public high school English class. These hours are offered in two English classes: 10 hours in English 406 (Advanced Expository Writing for Teachers) and 10 hours in English 429 (Adolescent Literature) which are both required for English Subject Matter Competency.

The goal of these observation hours is for prospective teachers to observe and reflect on how subject matter differs in the secondary school classrooms from their university experience in order for them to understand the nature of how subject matter is taught and experienced in the secondary school classroom.

English Subject Matter students in English 406 and English 429 must do the following:

* Contact Schools to connect with teachers available to be observed
* A TB test is required for entrance into a public school classroom
* Observe classes and obtain verification of 20 hours completed
* Turn in observation hour verifications and reflections

Students will observe classes at a school of their choosing.

Please do not contact teachers directly. You should contact the assistant principal at the school you plan to attend and explain that you are required to complete some observation hours for this program.

Please encourage them to contact the Subject Matter Advisor Dr. Dorothy Clark if they need verification or have any questions. Early Field Experience requires that students have a verification of hours form signed by the teacher they are observing and that students complete reflections on each class. These are turned in to Staff member in ST 707.

**Some words of advice.**

1. Plan on arrive to the school at least 10 minutes early. You will need to check in at the school main office and find your classroom. Explain that you are a CSUN student who will be observing.

Be kind to the office staff; you will interact with them each time you arrive to observe.

1. Dress professionally. Remember that your dress will be one of the factors, in addition to your visitor badge, that distinguishes you from the students. You should wear professional attire, which means no jeans, tank tops, spaghetti straps, visible abdominal areas, etc.
2. Plan to arrive at your assigned classroom at least 5 minutes prior to the beginning of the class period. This will give you the opportunity to introduce yourself to the teacher, find out where to sit, and take out paper and pens for notes. Remember that this teacher has invited you into his/her classroom; the teacher is interested in your development, but more importantly he/she is interested in student progress.
3. Enjoy your time in the classroom. Get to know the teacher and the students. Don’t be afraid to ask questions. This is your chance to see what teaching is all about, so use the opportunity to your advantage.

*Please note: the CSUN Credential Office will accept these 20 hours as part of the 45 hours of early field experience required for application to the CSUN School of Education. Please check the CSUN Credential Office website for clarification about this requirement. It is different from the English Subject Matter Requirement.*