



*The Pennsylvania State University*

## Work Experience for Agricultural & Extension Education

### Required Work Experience for AEE Majors

#### Rationale

Future teachers must be familiar with the characteristics of learners from different backgrounds. Therefore, students applying to enter the Agricultural & Extension Education major are expected to have previously completed experience working with young learners. Having prior work experience with young learners promotes an understanding of teaching-learning processes, contributes to sound decision-making about academic and career goals, and helps prepare educators for their work with diverse learners. Documentation of these activities contributes to a professional portfolio.

#### Requirement

Criteria for admission into the Agricultural & Extension Education (AEE) major includes documentation of **80 hours** of prior education work experience (paid or volunteer) in educational settings with learners of the age group the candidate plans to teach. This could include day care centers, public or private school classrooms, volunteer tutoring, summer camps, and other community youth programs.

Your work must include **40 hours with adolescents/teenagers** of secondary grade age (grades 6-12), or with learners of younger ages in your intended content field (e.g., agriculture or related disciplines), or with adults with special needs (including English-language learners).

At least **40 hours** should also come from learners of a **different background** than you. This can include learners whose cultural, social, or ethnic backgrounds differ from the candidate's own race/ethnicity, home language, culture, socio-economic status.

Acquiring these hours is the individual responsibility of the student to be done before formally entering the major. These prior experiences do not necessarily need to be under the aegis of Penn State University.

#### Implementation

These early educational experiences may have occurred before or after a student matriculates at Penn State, but they must be recent (since graduation from high school) and are to be completed prior to applying to enter the major. Any experiences with youths engaged in meaningful learning activities are appropriate for this requirement, but routine childcare ("baby-sitting") cannot be accepted. All experiences are to be documented by the end of the spring semester, the year before your senior/student teaching year.

#### Questions?

Please contact your AEE Advisor or Mischelle Forgy, (814) 863-7852, [mbf5@psu.edu](mailto:mbf5@psu.edu)

#### Examples of Work Experience Hours may include:

- Standard High School Ag Ed program
- Facilitate FLC Workshops
- Facilitate various AEE Workshops
- Extension Internships
- Assist Teach Ag Avengers with workshop delivery
- Study Abroad Experiences
- Life Skills Classroom Observations
- ESL Classroom Observations
- Elementary School Classroom Observations
- Environmental Centers
- State Park Internships
- Outdoor School
- SEED Semester
- Domestic Study Away
- Educational Internship Opportunities (Farm Bureau, PDA, Penn Ag Industries)
- Pennsylvania School for Excellence in Ag Sciences Counselor
- New Student Orientation Counselor