

*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 Terra Ingram, (814)863-7852, [terra@psu.edu](mailto:terra@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

## Education Work Experience Documentation Form

|   |                       |                                  |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
|   |                       |                                  |
| <i>Penn State's Student Name</i>  | <i>Email Address</i>  |                                  |
|   |                       |                                  |
| <i>Student's PSU Location</i>   | <i>PSU ID#</i>        |                                  |
|   |                       |                                  |
| <i>Date(s) of the Experience</i>  | <i>Intended Major</i> | <i>Total Hours of Experience</i> |
| <i>Specifically describe the duties performed (including the academic content area, if applicable).</i> |                       |                                  |
|   |                       |                                  |

| <i>Enter the # of learners in each age range.</i>  |   | <i>Enter the # of learners in each special need area.</i> |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <i># of Learners</i>   | <i>Type of Learner</i>                                | <i># of Learners</i>                                      | <i>Type of Learner</i>                        |
| _____  | Pre-school learners                                   | _____   | At-risk                                       |
| _____  | Elementary school learners                            | _____   | Learning Disabilities                         |
| _____  | Middle school/junior high school learners             | _____   | Intellectual Disability                       |
| _____  | High school learners                                  | _____   | Emotional Disturbance                         |
| _____  | Adult learners w/special needs                        | _____   | Autistic                                      |
| _____  | <b>Total number of learners (a through e)</b>         | _____   | Physically Challenged                         |
| <i>Were some of the learners different (race/ethnicity, language, culture, social class, etc.) than you?</i> |   | _____   | Hearing Impaired                              |
| _____ Yes  | If yes, please briefly describe the difference below: | _____   | Visually Impaired                             |
| _____ No   |   | _____   | Other (Specify)                               |
|  |   | _____   | <b>Total number of learners (a through i)</b> |
| <i>Mark the setting of the experience.</i>   |   |   |   |
|  |   | _____   | School Based Ag Ed Programs                   |
|  |   | _____   | Informal Educational Setting                  |
|  |   | _____   | Extension Experience                          |
|  |   | _____   | Special Populations                           |

**RELEASE AUTHORIZATION**

I hereby authorize the supervisor identified below to verify and comment on the information above and I release the supervisor from any potential liability or responsibility arising from supplying this information.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Student Signature) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

**To Be Completed by the Supervisor:**

Thank you for reviewing the items above, thereby confirming the date(s) reported by our student. Any additional comments are also welcome.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Supervisor's Signature) \_\_\_\_\_ (Title)

\_\_\_\_\_ (School/Company) \_\_\_\_\_ (Phone Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Email Address)

**Additional Comments:**