EDFX 490: Additional Field Experience in a Unique Urban Setting

General Information

EDFX 490 is an additional Field Experience for students who are interested in gaining some practical experience in a unique urban school environment. Placements will be offered at multiple sites, with the objective of helping students to deepen their understanding of the diversity found in schools and to develop strategies for programming for a greater range of student needs. Specific responsibilities will be dependent on the site, but all will involve working alongside teaching staff in supporting students with diverse needs.

This placement will run full days from May 4 to May 22. In addition, there will be a mandatory seminar on campus for all participants to be held on April 30, 2015. The course will be worth 3 credits and can be used as an Open Option or taken as an extra-degree class.

This experience does not take the place of either of the two mandatory Field Experiences. To be considered, students will need to have completed at least their Introductory Field Experience (IFX). The course will be listed on Bear Tracks as EDFX 490: Additional Placement in an Education Related and/or Outside Alberta Context; however, registration will not be available online and will be handled through USS. As this is a pilot, we are looking at placing only a small cohort and interested students will need to submit an application package to our office for consideration.

EDFX 490 Course Expectations

If you enroll in EDFX 490, you will be required to attend a seminar on Thursday, April 30 at the University. Through the seminar, you will gain insight into the mission of the cooperating alternative programs and how the teachers in these alternative schools meet the needs of the diverse students they teach. Some course readings related to alternative schools and programming for diverse learners will be assigned. By the end of the course you will be required to submit a brief reflective paper making connections between the course reading and your experience in schools.

From May 4 to 22nd you will go to the alternative school that you have been placed in, and work with your Mentor Teacher(s). Due to the uniqueness of the schools, expectations will differ from a regular IFX or AFX practicum. During this practicum, you will work with individual students and small groups, and, depending on the program, you may teach some whole class lessons. In order to be sensitive to the uniqueness of the alternative programs involved, your expectations will primarily be developed between you and your Mentor Teacher(s).

Evaluation
Either a grade of Credit or No Credit will be awarded for this course. To receive credit, students must:

1. Receive a favorable recommendation from their Mentor Teacher(s). This will be based on the satisfactory performance of reasonable assigned duties while at the school.
2. Submit a satisfactory paper.

This Field Experience will be supervised by a Field Experience Associate (FEA). If there is any concern about the performance of a student’s duties during this FX, you will be notified in a timely fashion by your Mentor Teacher and/or FEA.

Students will not receive a formal Final Evaluation document; but, if successful, will receive a letter of reference from the school for their professional portfolio.

**Registration Process**

1. Interested students should fill out the Application Form included in this package. It can be emailed to Cheryl Storie at cstorie@ualberta.ca. The deadline to apply to EDFX 490 is Tuesday, **February 17th 2015**. You cannot register for this course on Bear Tracks.

2. We will then review applications along with IFX evaluations where available.

3. Successful applicants will be contacted by our office by February 27, 2015 to confirm that they wish to be registered in EDFX 490. Upon receipt of confirmation, our office will manually register students in the course.

4. Unsuccessful candidates will be notified by email by March 6, 2015.

5. **Please note:** If you are interested in other Spring classes, we recommend that you register in them in case you are not selected for EDFX 490. It will be easier to drop a course if you are accepted, than to apply for a course that might already be full.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Cheryl Storie  
Field Experience Associate  
University of Alberta  
780-492-0871  
cstorie@ualberta.ca

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**Elementary Opportunities**

**Hospital School Campuses**  
Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, 10230 111 Avenue, Edmonton
The Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital has opportunities for U of A students to complete practicums either in the School Rehabilitation Services program (SRS), or the Child and Family Psychiatric Unit program (CFPU). Both programs provide short-term intensive educational, therapeutic, and medical services for students who are struggling academically and/or have mental health issues. The classrooms have approximately eight students and a teacher. In addition to the teacher, support is also provided from the interdisciplinary team of psychologists, speech pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists and physicians. The SRS program is grades K-3 and the CFPU program is grades 1 – 12.

The teachers in both programs seek to understand the unique and diverse needs of their students and they develop programs to effectively meet their needs. The teachers then work at facilitating smooth transitions for the students back to their community schools.

**Interactions Program**

The Interactions Program supports students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). ASD impacts how people understand what they see, hear and sense. This lifelong disability can result in difficulties in communication, social relationships, behaviour or learning. Although some students with ASD achieve at grade level, many have uneven or delayed achievement.

Interactions classrooms typically have approximately eight students, a teacher and two aides. Each classroom also has the regular support of occupational therapists, speech pathologists and behaviour specialists who provide support for the students. The students have a wide range of ability. Some students are non-verbal and require intensive support. Others are integrated part-time into regular classroom settings.

There are several Interactions sites across Edmonton

**Awasis (Cree) Program at Prince Charles School**

12325 - 127 Street, Edmonton

Awasis (Cree) programming allows students to increase their knowledge of aboriginal cultures and traditions, and develop language skills in Cree. The program emphasizes the development of academic skills while integrating aboriginal perspectives into all areas of study. Through this program the students gain an understanding of aboriginal cultures, spirituality and beliefs, improved understanding of aboriginal history in Canada, and they are provided with Cree as a second language instruction daily.

This program is open to students from Kindergarten to Grade 6.

**Secondary Opportunities**

**Hospital School Campuses**

Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, 10230 111 Avenue, Edmonton
AND CASA House Sherwood Park, 100-9000, Emerald Dr, Sherwood Park
Hospital School Campuses have opportunities for U of A students to complete their secondary practicum at the Child and Family Psychiatric Unit program (CFPU) in the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, or at CASA House in Sherwood Park. Both programs provide short-term intensive educational, therapeutic and medical services for students who have emotional, psychological and/or behavioral problems. The classrooms have up to eight students and a teacher. In addition to the teacher, support is also provided from the interdisciplinary team of psychologists, speech pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists and physicians.

The secondary classrooms are from grades 7-12. Typically, teachers would have Junior High or High School age children who are completing a variety of courses in an Outreach model. That is to say, the students are simultaneously in different grades and courses, and much of the instruction occurs one on one.

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**Outreach/Learn Write Program, Edmonton Public Schools**  
Multiple Sites

This is an Edmonton Public School Program that uniquely blends small group instruction and home study learning into an education program, individualized to each student’s needs and interests, but because the program is *delivered in the primary high school*, students have the ability to walk down the hall to access support as opposed to dialing a “1-800 number.”

Through strong student-teacher connections, this model is dedicated to creating individualized learning plans for every student and productively engaging students in the learning process, helping them fulfill their learning potential and reach their educational goals. LearnWrite/LearnNet has found success through parental involvement, individualized instruction, student-driven learning, one-on-one teacher and student collaboration, and differentiated instruction.

*Student Teachers who are involved with this program may be required to work across multiple sites, so access to transportation will be required.*

**Amiskwaciy Academy**  
101 Airport Road NW, Edmonton

Amiskwaciy Academy immerses students in a learning environment that honours aboriginal culture, language and traditions. The goal of the school is to develop academic skills while still respecting aboriginal perspectives and stories. Students who attend this school gain a deeper understanding of aboriginal spirituality, values and beliefs. An emphasis is placed on developing leadership and citizenship skills. This is a grade 9 – 12 program.

**Behaviour and Learning Assistance Program**  
Multiple Sites
Behaviour and Learning Assistance (BLA) programming supports students displaying chronic, extreme and pervasive behaviours. Students require close and constant adult supervision and a high level of structure to function in an educational setting. The goals of the program are to help students to develop and demonstrate positive behaviour and social skills and achieve academic goals.

All of these alternative programs are part of Edmonton Public Schools. For more information regarding these programs go to [http://www.epsb.ca/programs/](http://www.epsb.ca/programs/)