

## 25-HOUR YOUTH EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT FOR ADMISSION TO THE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

**When applying for admission to the Department of Education’s Professional Program, all applicants must complete 25 hours of successful experiences working with youth in the age range of their certification.**

***Can the 25 hours be waived?***

- Successful completion of the Teacher Cadet Program in high school will be accepted to waive this requirement.

***How do you verify your experience with youth?***

- Applicants complete the Professional Program Application which includes instructions.
- Applicants complete and attach their Service Learning Log to their application (minimum 25 hours).
- Applicants attach the *Practitioner Recommendation* form to their application.

***To fulfill the requirement, the youth experience:***

- may not be connected to any university course work (takes effect in Fall 2015).
- must include active involvement / interaction with youth.
- should be completed in the time between entrance into the freshman class and application for admission. Some high school experiences such as Teacher Cadet may count.
- can be a paid experience.

***In addition to the above, the following criteria must be met for specific programs:***

- **Early Childhood Teacher Education** – The experience must be with children between birth through age 8 (grades PK-3).
- **Elementary Teacher Education** - The experience must be with youth generally between the ages of 7 and 12 (grades 2-6).
- **Secondary Teacher Education** – The experience must be with youth generally between the ages of 14 and 18 (grades 9-12).

ARE APPROPRIATE	ARE NOT APPROPRIATE
Activities completed at the University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) not connected to coursework.	Observations, program development, or monitoring behavior; babysitting, serving as a nanny, and taking care of your own, friends’, or relative’s children.
Supervised day care work.	Experience supervised by a relative
Camp counselor/worker YMCA, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, or Volunteer work (e.g. Special Olympics, Heritage).	Observations in schools that do not involve actually working with students or is/was associated with coursework.
Supervised tutoring.	Tutoring associated with USCB coursework.
Work as a substitute teacher in K-12 schools Coaching sports teams, and directing band, chorus, choir, dance troupe, or theatre productions in K-12 school setting.	Experience with post-secondary youth, such as Residential Hall Assistant, tutor at the Writing Center, or lab assistant.

Applicants are to submit the *Practitioner Recommendation* form with the Professional Program Application to document their 25-hour youth experience.

Experience must include active involvement with youth. If an applicant’s youth experience is questionable, the Program Review Committee will review it and make a recommendation to the department chair.