

## Integrated Bachelor's/Master's (IB/M) Teacher Education Program

### Influential Experiences Requirement

**Applicants to the IB/M Program must be able to indicate experiences that have influenced and/or shaped their decision to pursue a career in teaching. These experiences may relate to working with children or be in the field of education. Other options to include may be meaningful or transformative experiences that have had an impact on your life.** An important component of your application to the IB/M Program is your life experience up to this point. We will ask you to describe your experiences in detail as well as what you learned from them.

Working with children will help inform your decision to pursue a career in teaching. Also consider working with diverse populations, including children with special needs, experiences in urban settings, as well as in your major area of study (e.g., elementary education, special education, math). Having a range of experiences is perceived as contributing to your overall readiness for teacher education.

Your personal experiences are also of tremendous value in shaping who you are as a person. Experiences can be described as anything personal, educational, extra curricular, work related, volunteer, or travel that has been influential in your life.

#### **Why do I need education experience?**

Experiences working with children in schools and other educational settings will help you decide if you really want to become a teacher. It can also help us know that you have received adequate exposure to a classroom setting and that you want to further your education based on your own research. If you were not able to obtain experiences in classrooms or with children, help us understand how you came to pursue teaching as your career by sharing some of your other life experiences.

#### **How much experience do I need?**

We will ask that you consider some meaningful experiences and decide on the top four that you would like to share more about in the essay. A range of experience is highly valued.

#### **What kind of classroom experiences should I have?**

The best classroom experiences are in a K-12 school and include, but are not limited to: tutoring, implementing lesson plans, teaching small groups, creating bulletin boards, assisting teachers/students with projects or activities, teaching concepts or skills, supervising groups of children, and working one-on-one with students.

#### **Who arranges placement?** Options are listed below:

- **The Office of Community Outreach** located in the Student Union on the Storrs campus ([www.volunteer.uconn.edu](http://www.volunteer.uconn.edu)) offers a variety of opportunities, including America Reads, Jumpstart, and school tutoring. Some programs provide transportation.
- **Husky Sport** ([www.huskysport.uconn.edu](http://www.huskysport.uconn.edu)) serve as mentor to kids between the ages of 5-15, teaching them positive life skills, health nutrition, and introducing them to new sports and physical activities.
- Students find own placements, usually during Thanksgiving, winter, and summer breaks. Contact the principal or a teacher at a local school to arrange the placement (relatives are not appropriate placement supervisors). Neag can provide a support letter if the school district requires one. Email [Mia.Hines@uconn.edu](mailto:Mia.Hines@uconn.edu) or [Dominique.Battle-Lawson@uconn.edu](mailto:Dominique.Battle-Lawson@uconn.edu) with the name and address of the school and to whom the letter should be sent.
- Students independently locate and join volunteer efforts in the community that engage children in learning such as after-school programs, tutoring, and summer programs.