

Experience with Youth and Multicultural Knowledge

To apply to the Secondary Education program, formal teaching experience in a school is not necessary. However, we do look for two kinds of experience in settings that demonstrate your experiences are extended, meaningful, and involve direct work with students, ideally with youth in 6-12 grade. You might look for volunteer opportunities, after-school programs, summer youth programs, or other similar experiences by contacting your local middle/high schools or community organizations, and/or participate in WWU's Compass 2 Campus program.

First, we look for meaningful experience with groups of adolescents over an extended period of time, with preference for experience in public secondary schools. This could include, for example, volunteer work in a middle or high school, summer/environmental/outdoor education experience, or work in a community or after school setting that serves adolescents. This would need to be more than a brief (two or three weeks) so that you have time to get to know and work with a group of adolescents over time or in a program that serves adolescents over time. For a list of the most up-to-date school contacts in Whatcom County, send an email to seced@wwu.edu.

Second, and equally important, we look for experience with students who come from diverse backgrounds. In particular, we look for experience with sociology-economically, multicultural, multi-linguistic, and/or ethnically diverse groups of adolescents. Additionally, we look for evidence of academic knowledge with multicultural and social justice issues and challenges- see the link for suggested courses in multicultural and equity issues.