

Which (pre-student teaching) field experiences did you find most useful? What new/different opportunities would have enhanced your preparation?

Open-Ended Response

- I found Kindergarten Practicum very useful because it allowed the student to get out of the collage classroom and into the real field experience.
- I don't feel like any of my field experiences prior to student teaching prepared me for anything. I never actually was able to DO anything in my field experiences. I graded papers one time and that was it. I think I should have been able to at least teach 1 lesson.
- These are the (pre-student teaching) field experiences that I found mostly useful:
  - Has Knowledge of Content-Passion for Subject
  - Is Well Prepared in the Arts and Sciences
  - Believes that All Students Can Learn
  - Maintains High Standards in the Classroom
  - Demonstrates Fairness
  - Creates Safe and Nurturing Classroom Environment
  - Uses Technology Effectively in the Classroom
  - Addresses a Variety of Learning Styles
  - Understands and Values Diversity
  - Is a Reflective Teacher
  - Values the Role of Assessment
  - Communicates Effectively with All Stakeholders
  - Appreciates the Inter-Connectedness of Disciplines

These are not new/different opportunities that enhanced my preparation but they are very important to use:

- Collegiality
  - Dedication to Profession
  - Leadership
  - Change Agent
  - Cooperation/Collaboration
  - Respect/Value Education
  - Professionalism
  - Confidentiality
- The Kindergarten Practicum experience. I believe all my experiences prepared me well.
  - My Practicum class
  - Most useful was kindergarten practicum and the preschool practicum because of the lessons and experiences I had to teach.
  - Kindergarten Practicum, TCED 302 and TCED 305 where most useful seeing that we were in the classrooms. Experience was the best opportunity to learn, reflect, and become better confident and comfortable in a teaching environment.
  - SPED practicum
  - The observation was the most helpful. That gave us a real experience of what really happens
  - They were all very useful.
  - SEDU 415 observation with Mrs. Copeland was the most useful. If the course had been set up to be more like a practicum where we had assignments each week the classroom time would have been enhanced even more.
  - Need more actual classroom experience before student teaching.
  - Again, I would have to say that my field experience in ARTE 360 was my most useful because the experiences provided me with opportunités [sic] to step up and completely design lessons and put them into action. It gave me a solid foundation. Ms. Shaw was always there to help me with any questions and her expertise was evident. Perhaps, field experiences might be more valuable if they included opportunities for attendance [sic] at professional development activities like attendance at art openings, etc.

- I found all of my pre-student teaching field experiences useful, however I think my preparation would have been enhanced if I had more opportunities for teaching instead of just observing or working with small groups.
- TCED 475 was very helpful. It was my first time being able to interact with the students in a classroom.
- Kindergarten Practicum was very useful. I would suggest allowing PreK-3 students more opportunities to interact with 1-3 students. I wasn't as prepared as I wanted to be when I went into 3rd grade for student teaching.
- SEDU 415 was the most useful. More time actually teaching in the classroom.
- I found that any class in which I was required to do any type of observations in a classroom was useful. I think that it prepared me for student teaching.
- My Clinical 1-3 classes and adapted physical education along with Anatomy and Physiology with Dr. Cates.
- I really didn't feel any pre student teaching field experiences helped me. If there was an opportunity to be able to teach more than once in the classroom field experience it would have helped. To actually plan a lesson out and try it.
- I did not feel like the majority of my field experiences were useful at all. It was always a hassle to find the time to go out into the school being a music education major. Most of the professors were very unhelpful in finding time for the students to go to the schools.
- Kindergarten Practicum
- I really liked the TCED 303 I believe that was the class. I did it during the May-mester but I enjoyed the collaboration and group activities.
- I observed several different teachers, and watching how each teacher handled classroom management was helpful. There should be a class on instrument repair required for all music majors. There is not a day that goes by that I do not have to fix an instrument, and I have to look up on the internet or ask my CT how to do it.
- I feel that k-prac was very helpful for me, because it was more of a real setting. it was great because we were required to plan and teach and all the other field experiences we did not have that experience.
- 302/305 observations were the most helpful
- Observations were helpful, there isn't anything I can think of to enhance them.
- SPED PE helped prepare working and planning for students with special needs I would like to have interviewed more teachers before student teaching to hear positive and negatives from someone in the field
- The field experiences in 302/305 were the most useful. I had a chance to do some of the duties of a teacher. I think that if I was REQUIRED to teach a couple lessons during my field experience that it would have prepared me better for student teaching.
- With the experiences that I have encountered during student teaching, I would say there is nothing in a text book or that someone could have told me to prepare me. Experience was definitely [sic] my best teacher in this particular case.
- I feel like getting to observe a teacher in their classroom was the most useful for me. I feel like, in the future, more time for students observing classrooms would enhance preparation before student teaching and beyond.
- Kindergarten Practicum
- Honestly not a single pre-student teaching field experience helped me because my field experience teachers were horrible.
- The Kindergarten placement was the most useful, because we had more experience in planning and teaching before student teaching.
- I think the field experiences I had at Union City Middle was very useful because I did get a chance to teach and interact with the students. I think that was the best way to enhance my preparation.
- Special Ed 440

- Kindergarten practicum and sped practicum. I loved being able to get into the classroom and teach. I learned many new classroom management techniques and teaching strategies.
- K-Prac was the most useful. I think the experience could have been enhanced by having more time to be involved in the classroom during that field experience.
- The opportunity to volunteer at Martin Housing as an Art Instructor provided a valuable learning experience.
- I thought the observation experience for SPED 440 was very useful because that is an aspect few people get to see before getting their own classroom.
- I thought that having the Ag Ed 310 and 470 classes were very beneficial due to allowing me to sit in agricultural classes and observe how agricultural teachers educate their students. I cannot think of any other opportunities that would have enhanced this other than adding possibly another class for observations.
- My observation at a middle school for Classroom management was very useful. The class required me to observe certain aspects of a teacher's lesson and management style. New opportunities such as more hours required for observation would have greatly helped me. Also, helping conduct the class would have helped.
- Working the special needs kids at Sharon, and teaching at the Martin Middle and Westview Schools.
- I was at Dresden Elementary in second grade for a pre-student teaching field experience. The school was very accepting of us being there and offered assistance in many ways.
- None of them. I was already in the school system.
- Union city school in 302/305 course it was my first one. Would like to do a follow up back at school would like to see a survey of students thoughts and ideas on how I was.
- I think the most useful experiences were from TCED 340 and HPED 310. The more experience in the class, the better.
- I found the one in TCED 302/305 most useful.
- Kindergarten practicum was the most useful. I was placed with a very difficult class, and even though my student teaching placement was in 6th grade, I knew I could handle anything after that Kindergarten class.
- More practicum experience and Curriculum design for SPED majors
- Kindergarten practicum and pre-K practicum truly prepared me for teaching full-time in a classroom.
- Dr. Hewitt's courses. She made us think about the real world of teaching.
- Field experiences at the elementary/primary school were very helpful.
- Kindergarten practicum was the most useful. I think that if you are a Pre-K- 3rd grade major, like I am, I would have loved to have more experience in 2nd and 3rd grade, before student teaching. I was only exposed to pre-k, k, and 1st during my course work, and most of our course work was geared toward pre-k and k.
- The field experience in TCED 302 and TCED 305 was a great opportunity and encouragement to pursue [sic] the teaching profession. I do feel that more placements in the school systems would have improved my student teaching experience.
- Field experience from 302/305 block. Going to the school every week really helped me see what this field was all about beforehand. also there were many tasks that we had to complete that i had never had experience doing before that helped prepare me for what would be expected of me as a teacher.
- K Prac was the best.
- We need more opportunity [sic] to learn how to manage effectively. That is where I have the most problems.
- I think that there should have been more observation opportunities throughout earlier semester instead of waiting until towards the end for those opportunities.
- The most useful pre- student teaching experience was TCED 475. I learned so much just by being in an actual classroom and doing hands-on learning.
- My observing experiences allowed me to see the diverse classroom scenarios.

- TCED 302 - Teaching Strategies - I liked the opportunity to observe a teacher and practice beginning teaching. I was extremely nervous at first but it gave me a starting position and insight to what teaching was all about. I think the 4-8 majors need more opportunities to be in the classroom.
- Field experiences are valuable and the need to have more of them would be helpful for future student teachers. Even if you have a difficult teacher to learn from, if nothing else you will learn what not to do.
- I thought be able to go into the classroom during the 302/305 class was very beneficial. I wish we could have gone into the classroom more during this time or even during other classes.
- I did some teaching and field experience with Pam Sliger at Gleason. This was a very helpful experience to me.
- Kindergarten Practicum gave me much insight to the development of elementary students along with different teaching strategies. I felt very prepared for student teaching.
- My TCED 302 field experience was the most useful. I would have liked more time for this experience.
- I enjoyed my 10 hour observation during my Sec Ed class. This was my first time in the classroom, and by this time in my education, I was ready for it. I felt like I should have been in the classroom long before this.
- I would have benefited from visiting and observing a variety of schools.
- Dr. Ramsey's Adaptive P.E. class helped me to have more compassion and understanding for the students with learning disabilities. Also, she was strict enough to make us learn how to properly develop the skills needed to accommodate the students.
- Reading 438 was my most useful pre-student teaching class I took.
- Math 191 and Math 192 have served me very well. I have already used many of the things taught in the class in my student teaching experiences.
- I would have to say the field experience I had in TCED 350. I was able to teach students in the subjects of Science and Math. That helped me see a glimpse of what student teaching may be like.
- Kindergarten Practicum really helped me get a feel for the classroom and how to handle situations that arise unexpectedly. A little more preparation in early childhood teaching strategies would have been really helpful.
- The K Prac field experience was definitely the most useful for me because it helped my confidence with classroom management. I wish we had had more experience with learning to drive your instruction with assessment. There wasn't much experience with that and I find principals demanding that information.
- The Clinical Class room experiences.
- I enjoyed observing Huntingdon High School and Middle School because that is where I am student teaching at now. I wish I could have had the chance to observe more band directors. However, there is not enough time in a music majors schedule to observe every day.
- I am in the graduate program and only had three small field experiences prior to student teaching. I feel that the program could benefit from a field experience such as the equivalent to the kindergarten practicum.
- All of the field experiences for my music education classes were useful. The only improvement that I can offer would be using schools outside of West Tennessee. Perhaps a trip for music education majors to travel as a group to school systems around Nashville could be a possibility in the future.
- Observing in Sec Ed 414. Rather than just observing, it would have been beneficial to be hands on in the classroom, especially so close to student teaching.
- In either TCED 302 or 305 (can't remember which) we had to go to schools and observe teachers. I found this quite useful because it was our first opportunity to be in the classroom and was a great way to see how different teachers teach, manage the class, organize their rooms, etc. Also, TCED 475 was great because it was the first time we were able to actually teach and put some of the things we had learned into practice. And it was just fun.

- I enjoyed my practicum experiences. I think the more time spent in one place the more you learn.
- I enjoyed all opportunities to be in the classroom working with teachers and students. I wish there were more opportunities throughout the course load because I definitely learned more from being in the classroom than from textbooks.
- Opportunities to assist with actual art experiences arranged by the art faculty as part of my art ed. classes. I.E. working at Martin Housing, Helping with Art Camp, teaching art at C.E. Weldon summer program
- K-Prac was the best field experience for preparing me for student teaching.
- I didn't have to do much pre-student teaching field experiences; however, the field experiences that I did participate in were lacking. All of the teachers told me things that contradicted what I learned in class. For example, EVERY teacher that I have ever come in contact with told me that lesson plans were useless.
- The Kindergarten practicum (TCED 475) field experience was the most useful pre-student teaching experience. In this field experience we were able to eventually take over complete control of the classroom, and I feel like this class has benefitted me the most other than student teaching. I believe that future students in the Education Department at UTM should be given more of this type of field experience.
- I found Teacher Ed. 302 and 305 was very helpful. It got me in the classroom early on to see what it was all about. Field experiences that allowed hands on with the students would be more helpful.
- I found TCED 475's field experience most useful because I actually taught a class. I did not go and only observe.
- Since I was given a first grade placement, I have been able to utilize many resources provided to me through kindergarten practicum. It would be nice had I been given more knowledge in diversifying curriculum to meet the needs of all students. This is something I still am not comfortable with.
- TCED 475 helped me more than any course because I was required to go to a kindergarten classroom and teach every week. I had to type lesson plans and be prepared for each day.
- The observation hours that we were required to get were helpful but I feel that it should be required for a student to co-teach during the observations. My experience while observing was very boring because you got the gist of how the class was run after an hour, but I had to stay all day just to get my hours in.
- All observations were valuable. The more time in the classroom before student teaching the better. However, I do not feel my experiences were diverse. Many of the experiences were very similar.
- I only had two pre-student teaching field experiences. The first, which was the practicum for one of my music education classes was the most useful because I got a chance to teach rather than just observe. The opportunity to observe more grade levels other than elementary, to observe special education students, and to observe in a choral setting would have been useful.
- Kindergarten practicum and PreK practicum helped me to have faith in my teaching abilities and classroom management skills. But, in my opinion, nothing prepares you for the real classroom everyday for an entire semester!
- BUED 430 was useful because there were several observations, hand on experience, grading and testing information, and some actual classroom teaching experience that was given before student teaching.
- Fewer classes focused on Vygotsky and other theorists and more classes that actually focus on the act of teaching.
- The field experiences from 302/305 were most useful to me. As a future teacher, I got to sit back and strictly observe how to run/manage a classroom.