Gathering Student Voices: Town Hall Tuesday, August 18, FAQs

Thank you for participating in Gathering Student Voices Thoughtexchange! Following are the questions that related to Field Experience. Please be forewarned ~ Field Experience is very important so there is a lot of information to read 😊 Also, please read carefully for IFX and AFX specific responses.

1. What will EDFX look like in the fall?

At this time and on this date (August 25, 2020), we are considering:

- schools’ re-entry plans and that these plans may vary among districts/divisions.
- your/student health and we are continually advised by the University of Alberta, Facilities and Operations Team who consults with Alberta Health.

We are planning for AFX to begin on Monday, October 5 and IFX observation days on Fridays October 9, 16, 23 and IFX field experience on Monday, November 2. Placements will be posted on Friday, September 25 at Student Teaching On-Line Registration website Our Field Experience Placement Coordinators have been and will continue working behind the scenes to secure placements. Please remember schools start on Tuesday, September 3 and principals will know more about their teachers. Following, principals will determine if teachers in their school are available to mentor a pre-service teacher, connect with us and we review your needs.

We communicate regularly with school superintendents, Alberta Education and the Alberta Teachers’ Association.

We know there are variations in re-entry plans. The majority of schools have indicated a combination of f-2-f and remote delivery, which, in consultation with your Mentor Teacher will determine your experience.

2. Beartracks indicates the IFX lab takes place on campus. Do I have to move to Edmonton?

On Bear tracks your field experience placement, which happens in schools, is listed as a Lab and the following note is attached:

This class offers in-person content. Please contact the instructor or teaching department for additional information. A full list of in-person classes can be found here.

Please note the in-person content refers to your in-school student teaching experience only; all seminars attached to field experience will be delivered remotely.

3. I live out of Edmonton and I want to do my EDFX placement in my home location? What do I do?
Regional Placements are considered to be 40 miles out of Edmonton (not St. Albert or Sherwood Park).
The online request for a regional placement is closed. Please email Roberta Baril, Lead Field Experience Facilitator at roberta.baril@ualberta.ca and put Regional EDFX in the subject line. This information is also on the Field Experiences website.

Please know that your regional request is approved when we receive your request. Following, we need to process your request because Mentor Teacher recruitment takes time. You will be notified of your placement on Friday, September 25 at Student Teaching On-Line Registration website Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience 😊

4. Can I delay my EDFX to another term?

Yes, it is possible. Please remember we cannot guarantee what schools will look like in the winter or beyond and what their policies will be regarding field experience placements for pre-service teachers/you.

Delaying could significantly impact your program because of course scheduling. Remember to contact educinfo@ualberta.ca if you have questions.

Also, you can complete your courses in your IPT and APT term and delay your EDFX. Of course, it is very beneficial to take the courses and field experience in the same term so that theory learning from class can be integrated into practice without time interference in between.

5. If the school I am placed in closes because of COVID-19, what happens to the remainder of my placement?

We assume that all f-2-f delivery would go to remote delivery as happened in the last school year from March to June. Thus, your placement would continue.

6. I am immunocomprised. Do I have to teach f-2-f in a school?

Of course, your health and safety are our top priority. Please fill out the EDFX Extenuating Circumstance Form - Fall 2020/Winter 2021 before Thursday, September 4 at 8:00 pm. We will do our very best to find a placement that allows you to teach remote delivery. However, there are no guarantees.

7. I live with others who are immunocompromised. Do I have to teach f-2-f in a school?

Of course, your health and safety are our top priority and we know the health of others impact your health. Please fill out the EDFX Extenuating Circumstance Form - Fall 2020/Winter 2021 before
Thursday, September 4 at 8:00 pm. We will do our very best to find a placement that allows you to teach remote delivery. There are no guarantees.

8. What happens if I have COVID-19 symptoms and get tested but need to be away from my placement while I am waiting for the results (regularly 4 days)?

Please contact your Mentor Teacher immediately. There two (2) days of absence available for IFX and three (3) for AFX. Additional days can be negotiated with your Mentor Teacher.

9. What happens if I contract COVID-19 while I am on my placement and need to self-isolate for 14 days?

Please contact your Field Experience Associate (FEA) immediately and every option will be investigated so you can complete your placement. You will be provided with your FEA’s contact information.

10. Will I be reimbursed my tuition fee if I do not complete my field experience?

At this time, we do not foresee that field experience placements cannot be completed. If extenuating circumstances beyond your control emerge, we will address these on a student-by-student basis. Please contact Roberta Baril at roberta.baril@ualberta.ca as soon as possible and put EC in the subject line.

Also, please remember the dates for add/delete, 50% withdraw and final withdraw.

11. Will teaching remotely instead of in a classroom f-2-f negatively impact my teaching job/position prospects?

In conversations with Alberta Education and school superintendents, we have been assured that students will not be negatively impacted by the type of teaching they undertake in their field experience. It is important to keep in mind that all teacher education students in the province who are nearing the end of their programs have been impacted by the pandemic.

Please remember when you graduate with your Bachelor of Education degree, you are eligible for Interim Certification. After successfully teaching for two years, you are eligible for Permanent Certification. Thus, you have these years to demonstrate your competencies, as outlined in the Teaching Quality Standard, to your principal.

If your question has not been included, please send it to Roberta Baril at roberta.baril@ualberta.ca and include EDFX ? in the subject line.