

# Form: "Education Exploration - Undergraduate"

**Created with:** TaskStream - Advancing Educational Excellence

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## Students must participate in a minimum of three of the following categories listed:

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### 1. School Board Meeting

- Name of school district and site for the meeting.
  - Copy of the board meeting agenda
  - How was the meeting conducted?
  - Explain how the meeting was organized i.e. committee structure
  - Was there a public comment session and what was presented by the public?
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**Identify the location, event, organization or person**

**Hours**

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*No answer specified*

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### 2. Cyber School/alternative school/charter school

- Name and site for the school
  - Website printout of homepage
  - Cite specific programs offered by the school
  - Does the school have a specialty program, i.e. science and mathematics?
  - Student demographics the type of students attending this school
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**Identify the location, event, organization or person**

**Hours**

*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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### 3. Teacher Interview

- Where does the teacher teach?
- What grade level or subject(s) are taught?
- Attach your interview questions and responses.

Sample questions: Why did you go into teaching? What is your educational background? How long have you been teaching? What is the most positive aspect of the profession? If you could change one aspect of your position, what would it be?

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**Identify the location, event, organization or person**

**Hours**

*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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### 4. Observation Day

To arrange for an observation, call the school of your choice and ask for permission to observe at the school. Explain that you are a teacher candidate at KU and are required to do Education Exploration. The purpose of classroom observation is to acquaint the teacher

candidate with the role of the teacher, the nature of the learner, and the organization of various classrooms.

Next, propose specific dates, times and grade levels, and subject area that you would like to observe. The contact person might be able to approve your request immediately or he/she might ask you to call back in a few days to confirm the visit with specific teachers.

If you are forced to cancel your observation, please call the school as soon as you know that you cannot keep your appointment and tell them you must cancel.

On the day of the observation, dress appropriately (business casual), arrive 10-15 minutes early, report to the school office and introduce yourself. Also, explain why you are there (i.e. to observe Mr. Smith's class; arrangements were made with Dr. Jones, Principal). Be prepared to show your clearances (Act 34, Act 151, TB Test and Act 114). Note: Certain schools may require an introductory letter from KU. Please contact the Secondary Education Office, if you encounter this.

- Describe the students and their background
- What did you learn from this experience?
- In what way(s) did this experience change your perception of teaching and learning?

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**Identify the location, event, organization or person**

**Hours**

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*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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## 5. Professional Organization

- What is the purpose of this educational organization?
- What is the philosophy of the organization?
- How does the organization benefit its members?

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**Identify the location, event, organization or person**

**Hours**

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*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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## 6. School Event

- Describe the event that you attended.
- How does this event contribute to the overall school program and mission?
- How is the event of value to students, the school, and the community?
- Attach handouts from event, if available.

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**Identify the location, event, organization or person**

**Hours**

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*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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## 7. Volunteer for an Organization (minimum 5 hours or 3 visits)

- Explain the purpose of the organization.
- Explain your involvement and of what it consisted.
- Explain how this involvement will be of value to you professionally.

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**Identify the location, event,  
organization or person**

**Hours**

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*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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### **8. Career Center**

- What areas are currently experiencing shortages in the profession i.e. specific subjects?
  - What resources are available to assist in seeking positions?
  - In what specific areas of the country are jobs available?
  - Given your career choice, what is the outlook for positions for you?
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**Identify the location, event,  
organization or person**

**Hours**

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*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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### **9. ESL Classroom/Observation Report (5 hours)**

(1 hour in ESL classroom / 4 hours in content classroom)

Identify sociocultural characteristics of ELLs including educational background and demographics.

Describe how ELLs cultural communication styles and learning styles affect the learning process.

Describe how ELLs cultural values affect their academic achievement and language development.

Identify bias in instruction, materials and assessments

Demonstrate cross-cultural competence in interactions with colleagues, administrators, school and community specialists, students and their families.

Observe culturally and/or linguistically diverse instructional settings

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**Identify the location, event,  
organization or person**

**Hours**

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*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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### **10. ELL/Diversity Conferences (1-3 hours)**

What is the name and location of conference?

What did you learn about the major topic?

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**Identify the location, event,  
organization or person**

**Hours**

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*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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### **11. On-campus cultural/diversity presentations (1-3 hours)**

What is the name of presenter and presentation?

What was the focus and message of the presentation?

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**Identify the location, event,  
organization or person**

**Hours**

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*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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## **12. Local Ethnic Neighborhood Celebrations (1-3 hours)**

Where was the event and what was the name of celebration?  
What did you learn..?

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**Identify the location, event,  
organization or person**

**Hours**

*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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## **13. Special Olympics Volunteer**

Where and when was the event held?  
In what way(s) did you contribute?

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**Identify the location, event,  
organization or person**

**Hours**

*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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## **14. Good Shepherd Work Services**

- Describe the students and the jobs performed
  - What did you learn from this experience?
  - How can you use this experience to change your perception of students with moderate to severe disabilities?
  - Reflect on how this experience affects you as a future teacher.
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**Identify the location, event,  
organization or person**

**Hours**

*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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## **15. Middle and High School Best Buddies**

- Name of school district and school
  - General description of best buddies program
  - Describe the activities that you do with your buddy
  - Reflect on how this experience affects you as a future teacher
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**Identify the location, event,  
organization or person**

**Hours**

*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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## **16. Special Needs Summer Camps for Middle and High School Students with Disabilities**

- Identify the state and city/town of the camp
- Name of the camp and purpose of the camp
- What was your role working or volunteering at the camp
- Describe the adolescents and activities at the camp

- Attach camp brochures
- Reflect on how this experience affects you as a future teacher

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**Identify the location, event,  
organization or person**

**Hours**

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*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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**17. Supplemental or Full-Time Special Education Classroom Observation Report (2-3 hours) - Middle or High School -- required to observe content area lessons**

- Identify the school district and school
- Describe the characteristics and needs of students
- Describe the instructional methods used by the classroom teacher and paraprofessionals
- Describe the instructional materials and curriculum
- Compare and contrast the instructional methods and materials to general education classrooms
- Reflect on how this experience affects you as a future teacher

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**Identify the location, event,  
organization or person**

**Hours**

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*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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**18. Inclusive Classroom Observation Report (2-3 hours) - Middle or High School - required to observe content area lessons**

- Identify the school district and school
- Describe the characteristics and needs of students with disabilities
- Describe the instructional accommodations used to support inclusion
- Describe the roles of the general education teacher and special education teacher
- Reflect on how this experience affects you as a future teacher

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**Identify the location, event,  
organization or person**

**Hours**

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*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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**19. Supported Employment Services**

- Describe the students and the jobs performed
- What did you learn from this experience?
- How can you use this experience to change your perception of students with moderate to severe disabilities?
- Reflect on how this experience affects you as a future teacher

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**Identify the location, event,  
organization or person**

**Hours**

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*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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**20. Coaster Quest -- The Physics and Mathematics of Amusement Park Rides**

Volunteer as a student facilitator for Secondary Education's annual Coaster Quest event held the first Friday in May at Dorney Park.

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**Identify the location, event,  
organization or person**

**Hours**

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*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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## **21. Distance Learning (Home Education)**

Students selecting this option must go through an approval process with partner distance learning school and will have opportunities to work actively with students or develop lesson plans that will be adopted by the distance learning school.

There are three different options for students opting to take advantage of this exploration:

Develop full year lesson plans around DL curriculum (must develop a minimum of four full year lesson plans to earn certificate in Distance Learning Research and Development)

Design and deliver 8 week lesson module using synchronous instruction (must develop and teach one full session to earn Online Instructional Certificate)

Provide online tutoring services for students in area of specialty (must commit to a minimum of 18 hours to earn Online Tutoring Certificate)

To learn more, visit <http://www.homeschoolacademy.com/careers/education-exploration/>

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**Identify the location, event,  
organization or person**

**Hours**

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*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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## **22. Approved Alternative Exploration Task**

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**Identify the location, event,  
organization or person**

**Hours**

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*No answer specified*

*No answer specified*

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