ATTENTION: Mentally/Physically Handicapped (MPH) Program Majors

FROM: Debra K. Lynch, Ph.D.
Chair, Special Education

You have been accepted into the College of Education and the Mentally/Physically Handicapped (MPH) Program. Additionally, you will need to meet the special entrance requirement discussed below. Ideally, this requirement is to be completed before you arrive on campus.

MPH Program majors shall have a minimum of twenty (20) clock hours of practical experience working in one setting with children or youth possessing a specific mental/physical disability. For recording purposes, the following distinctions will be used: 1) low incidences (moderate intellectual disabilities; physical disabilities; behavior disorders) 2) high incidences (learning disabilities, mild intellectual disabilities). This experience may be as a volunteer, observer, or paid worker and should be completed before arriving on campus as a freshman or transfer student. The experience must be completed with a minimum of 7 individuals with disabilities in a full Special Education setting. Upon completion of the 20 hour experience, you should have your immediate supervisor or the director of the facility submit to the Chair of the Department of Special Education a letter or evaluation describing your experience and recommending or not recommending that you pursue a career in Special Education. You may also complete the 20 Clock Hour Experience form which is available in the department office.

The experience may be completed in any of the following locations:

1. Public or private school special education classrooms.

2. Sheltered workshops.

3. Summer camps -- day or residential programs. Such camps may be privately operated or affiliated with an acknowledged advocacy group (e.g., Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens).

4. Public or private residential programs.

5. Other experiences in the field of Special Education previously approved in writing by the Chair of the Department of Special Education.

The following experiences WILL NOT fulfill this requirement:

1. Babysitting a child with a disability.

2. Working one-on-one with someone with a disability.

3. Observing/working in a setting that serves primarily general education students (i.e., a day care sponsored by the YMCA, any inclusive classroom or camp setting, etc.)

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