

Strengths and Research at Buffalo State College

Standard 3: Field Experiences and Clinical Practice

Strengths at Buffalo State:

Art Education Program

Students from the AED Student Chapter write Small Grant Proposals through the Undergraduate Research in order to attend the New York State and National Conferences in Art Education where they plan to gather information to complete research papers, develop units of instruction in art education, and form presentations to deliver to their peers.

Several summer research grants are awarded to undergraduate students who work with a faculty mentor. Thousands of dollars are awarded by the Research foundation for projects ranging from jewelry making in Italy using Etruscan chain construction to students studying local authors.

Many AED students have a wonderful and educational experience in the Siena Program in Italy. They become immersed in an Italian community while living with an Italian family and studying history, Art history, studio art, and other cultural events.

AED 302 students select from a variety of urban public and charter schools where they develop detailed lessons to teach to students from kindergarten through high school levels. The diverse student populations within city schools provides abundant growth opportunities for art education majors prior to student teaching.

Elementary Education and Reading Department

- There is no stronger evidence of this than the nationally recognized Professional Development School Consortium. While the PDS has grown exponentially to provide rich experiences for Childhood, Early Childhood, MIITC and advanced degree candidates, EXE maintains representation on the PDS. At the suggestion of the external evaluator, Dr. Jane Neapolitan, the PDS has invited representatives from education programs across the unit to attend the annual retreat. Goal setting for the PDS is accomplished by the PDS Advisory Council, the governing body consisting of principals, teachers, students and BSC faculty. It is in the process of determining how to best accomplish the tasks suggested in the 2007 consultant report. Math Education and Science Education also have engaged the PDS model in a limited capacity.
- The PDS has been celebrated locally, statewide and nationally. We received a Bronze Community Service (Oct. 2005) award from the City of Buffalo, were designated a Distinguished Program by NYACTE (2003) and were a co-finalist for the Distinguished Program in Teacher Education award from ATE (2005). We are currently considering applying for membership in the National Network for

Education Renewal (NNER) to provide our PDS with a national forum for information exchange and political action.

- EER implemented a 100% student teaching cohort model to support the success of clinical practice. Students enter PDS schools in cohorts of 4-8 with a student teaching supervisor who meets with them twice each week. They move as a cohort to a second placement. This provides the student teachers with constant support, feedback on performance, immediate identification of trouble areas, career counseling and seminars each week where students reflect on practice and socially construct resolutions to problems encountered individually in the school setting.

Exceptional Education Department

Candidates receive both urban and rural/suburban placements for field experiences and/or student teaching.

Exceptional education majors receive DUAL certification (both general education and special education) thus they have increased time for student interaction in field placement settings as well as increased contact with more diverse populations and ability levels.

Use of 364 ecological assessments.

Field placement collaboration is facilitated by shared classrooms between general education and special education teacher candidates.

Literacy Specialist Program

3 semesters of rigorous practicum work with struggling readers/writers, including 4-week summer clinical experience in a city school

Science Education Programs

Internships
Pre-service teacher candidates have a variety of experiences, urban, suburban rural, middle school, high school, after school programs, enrichment programs

Speech and Language Pathology

The SLP department maintains strong community relationships through a network of external site opportunities for clinical education (e.g., schools, hospitals, special centers [i.e., Autistic Services, etc.], long-term care facilities, etc.) (see CAA Re-accreditation Application). Many of the off-campus supervisors are alumni and/or employers who are committed to the program and to our students.

Related Research or Inquiry at Buffalo State:

Art Education Program

In Art Education, Shirley Hayes writes: Undergraduate students have the opportunity to accomplish research under the guidance of a faculty member on such topics that lead to improvements in teaching and learning in art education including research on works of art (including contemporary works), history and philosophy of art education, artists, pedagogy, curriculum and program development, levels of development, and assessment and evaluation, among others. In local schools, they gather data to relate to peers in classroom setting in an oral tradition. In addition, they present their research to a body of their peers each semester and involve the peers in critique and evaluation. These research endeavors build the understandings of pre-service teachers with regard to future teaching in PK-12 settings.

Elementary Education and Reading Department

- Action research project by Graduate Student Jennifer Golias assessed the impact of PDS minigrants in action research on school partners, student achievement and dissemination of information via the website. This was shared with the College Council, was published in the NAPDS newsletter and was presented at the 2007 NNER Annual Conference.

Exceptional Education Department

Master's level students conduct field based research projects aimed at evaluating candidate effect on student learning. Research projects are conducted in classrooms and schools and other natural settings.

Music Education Program

Music Education is about to complete case study on one of its partnerships.

Science Education Programs

BSTN
MSP

Speech and Language Pathology

See CAA Re-accreditation Application (pp. 80-121) for the range of facilities where students gain a wide variety of educational experiences as part of their program.