

**25-HOUR YOUTH EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT FOR  
ADMISSION TO TEACHER EDUCATION**

**When applying for admission to the Richard W. Riley College of Education, all applicants must complete 25 hours of successful experiences working with youth in the age range of their certification.**

***Can the 25 hours be waived?***

- Successful completion of the Teacher Cadet Program in high school, enrollment in the Teaching Fellows Program, or status as a non-traditional student (25 years or older) count as the required 25 hours of youth experience. If you feel you have met one of these requirements to have your 25 hours waived, contact Ms. Suzy Baldwin @ [baldwins@winthrop.edu](mailto:baldwins@winthrop.edu) or 323-4738.

***How do you verify your experience with youth?***

- Request that a supervisor complete the form provided in the application materials. (**MAT students ONLY**)
- Undergraduate students complete the SAS [online application](#) which includes instructions.
- Non-traditional students (25 years or older) contact Ms. Baldwin at [baldwins@winthrop.edu](mailto:baldwins@winthrop.edu) to verify the amount of time, ages of children, type of interactions, and performance in the experience.

***To fulfill the requirement, the youth experience:***

- may not be connected to any university course work.
- must include active involvement / interaction with youth.
- should be completed in the time between entrance into the freshman class and application for admission. some high school experiences such as Teacher Cadet may count.
- can be a paid experience.

***In addition to the above, the following criteria must be met for specific programs:***

- **Early Childhood Teacher Education** – The experience must be with children between birth through age 8 (grades PK-3).
- **Elementary Teacher Education** - The experience must be with youth generally between the ages of 7 and 12 (grades 2-6).
- **Middle Level Education** – The experience must be with youth generally between the ages of 10 and 14 (grades 5-8).
- **Secondary Teacher Education** – The experience must be with youth generally between the ages of 14 and 18 (grades 9-12).
- **K-12 programs** – The experience must be with children generally between the age of 5 and 18 (grades K-12). Special Education certifications may work with youth up to age 21.

<b>ARE APPROPRIATE</b>	<b>ARE NOT APPROPRIATE</b>
Activities completed at Winthrop University not connected to coursework	Babysitting, serving as a nanny, and taking care of your own, friends', or relative's children.
Supervised day care work	Experience supervised by a relative
Camp counselor/worker YMCA, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, or Saturday Morning Club Volunteer work(e.g. Special Olympics)	Observations in schools that do not involve actually working with students or is/was associated with coursework
Supervised tutoring	Tutoring associated with Winthrop coursework
Work as a substitute teacher in K-12 schools Coaching sports teams, and directing band, chorus, choir, dance troupe, or theatre productions in K-12 school setting.	Work completed before entering Winthrop.
<u>Experience must include active involvement with the youth, NOT observations, program development, or monitoring behavior.</u>	Experience with post-secondary youth, such as Residential Hall Assistant, tutor at the Writing Center, or lab assistant.