

**San Antonio College - Department of Early Childhood Studies**

**Field Experience and Co-op Experience Guidelines**

**CDEC 1164/1165/1480/1481/2280**

The labs (field experiences and co-ops) must now be taken in sequence as follows:

<p><b>Lab #1:</b> Field Experience I - CDEC 1164</p> <p><u>OR</u></p> <p>Co-Op Field Experience I - CDEC 1480</p>	<p>1164 is for students completing their field experience on-campus in the SAC Early Childhood Center</p> <p>1480 is for students who are working in a child care center more than 29 hours per week.</p>	<p>1164 requires working six hours per week with infants or toddlers in a SAC Early Childhood Center classroom; there is a required staffing meeting (one hour 15 minutes) every other week</p> <p>1480 involves working in your own classroom plus eight additional hours*; there is a required staffing meeting (one hour 15 minutes) every other week</p>
<p><b>Lab #2:</b> Field Experience II - CDEC 1165</p> <p><u>OR</u></p> <p>Co-op Field Experience II - CDEC 1481</p>	<p>1165 is for students completing their field experience on-campus in the SAC Early Childhood Center</p> <p>1481 is for students who are working in a child care center more than 29 hours per week.</p>	<p>1165 requires working six hours per week with preschoolers in a SAC Early Childhood Center classroom; there is a required staffing meeting (one hour 15 minutes) every other week</p> <p>1481 involves working in your own classroom plus eight additional hours*; there is a required staffing meeting (one hour 15 minutes) every other week</p>
<p><b>Lab #3:</b> Co-Op Field Experience III- CDEC 2280</p>	<p>All students complete this capstone course in their final semester</p>	<p>Students will be placed in an off-campus center OR complete hours in their own center if they work more than 29 hours per week – additional hours in a center meeting quality Head Start or NAEYC standards may be necessary</p>

\*Because it is our belief that students must experience basic, hands-on experience with a variety of age groups before they graduate, students will be required to complete eight hours working with an age group different than the one with which they are working in their classroom for both 1480 and 1481. They will have a total of 16 hours with a different age group upon completion of both co-ops.

**Additional Information for students who are employed in a child care center more than 29 hours per week:**

- If students **have a Preschool CDA** they will be placed in Co-op II (1481) but must complete eight hours observing/working in an I/T classroom at the SAC Early Childhood Center.
- If students **have an Infant /Toddler CDA** they will be placed in Co-op II (1481) but must complete eight hours observing/working in a preschool classroom at the SAC Early Childhood Center.
- If students **do not** have CDA then they will be enrolled first in 1480 and complete eight hours working with children from an age group different than their work classroom. This must be in a group setting at student's site of choice. After completion of 1480, students will enroll in 1481 and also complete eight hours working with children from an age group different than their work classroom. This must be completed at a center that meets quality standards (NAEYC or Head Start). Upon completion of 1480 and 1481, student may register for Co-op III/Capstone (CDEC 2280). This must be done during the semester they intend to graduate with an AAS degree.
- Students enrolling in any co-op experience (1480, 1481, or 2280) must spend time working in a quality environment. A quality program means that the center must be accredited by NAEYC or the center must meet Head Start Standards. When the co-op work experience does not meet the quality center guidelines, then the student must complete eight hours observing/working in a classroom (same age group as their work) at the SAC Early Childhood Center. This applies to each co-op experience.
- CDEC 1480/81 and CDEC 2280 will need to be individualized based on student's previous lab experience.

**This information is also available on the San Antonio College Department of Early Childhood Studies website: <http://www.accd.edu/sac/ecs/default.htm>**