

## **Participating in Practica, Field Trip, Service Learning**

Practica, field trips and service learning opportunities are valuable components of the secondary education program; and among those most enjoyed and appreciated by students. These experiences, combined with the methodology and philosophy provided in sequence course work, result in a comprehensive teacher preparation program.

During the first quarter, students are required to attend a field trip in a secondary school in order to observe and work with students in a number of different classroom settings. This experience is followed by the following practica experiences.

### **MIDDLE LEVEL**

#### **Middle Level Practicum (Sec 435 – 2 cr)**

This course consists of 20-40 hours during the quarter assisting in a middle school, observing various teacher roles and working with students. This course includes a weekly 1-hour seminar on topics relevant to this practicum. Panels composed of students, teachers, interns, and administrators address a wide variety of secondary education topics.

The middle level practicum requirement can also be met by enrolling in one of the following courses:

#### **Intensive Middle School Practicum (Sec 452 – 3 cr)**

This course is designed for those students seriously considering teaching at the middle level. Students complete in-school observations with a focus on the needs of early adolescents, and assist teachers in their classrooms.

#### **Service Learning (Sec 434 – 1-2 cr)**

This course serves as an introduction to the pedagogy, definition, techniques and assessment of service learning. A 2-credit option includes field-based practicum working in a school that is implementing a service-learning program.

### **HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **Secondary School Practicum (Sec 436 – 1 cr)**

This course consists of 20-40 hours during the quarter working with a high school cooperating teacher and his/her students.

Practicum placements are made by secondary education instructors who take into account a student's major endorsement, transportation, course schedule, as well as the placement availability. Students are advised to arrange their coursework schedules to provide ample time for traveling to and from their secondary school as well as working with their cooperating teacher/students over the course of the quarter. Most secondary schools operate between 7:30 am – 3:00 pm.