

# FIELD EXPERIENCES OFFICE

## Welcome to Martin Luther College!

The Field Experiences Office is looking forward to meeting you, getting to know you, and working with you. The purpose of this letter is to acquaint you with two of the experience courses in which you will be involved during your first year at MLC.

### **New at MLC: J-term**

J-term (January) is a newer experience that began in 2023-24. This year, J-term runs from January 5– January 21, and offers time and scheduling for students to complete field experiences outside of the traditional academic semester. Depending on your specific program, Education majors will complete required Clinical Experiences in local schools during the J-term of either their second, third, and/or fourth year of their program. Students may also complete Early Field Experience II (EFE I) during J-term.

### **EDU3405 Individual Field Experience (IFE) Hours**

Individual Field Experience Hours are service learning opportunities found outside your other courses. The hours should be related to the work of the public ministry. To complete the course, you are required to record a minimum of 70 hours of experiences. The activities should include work in three categories: A. Congregational Service, B. Teaching and Instructional Activities, and C. Youth Service. For a complete description of IFE categories and requirements, visit [mlc-wels.edu/field-experiences/ife/](https://mlc-wels.edu/field-experiences/ife/).

The 70 hours of experiences must be completed by the time you apply for student teaching, which usually occurs in the spring semester of your third year. All experiences must have been gained after you graduated from high school. As a result, activities you completed this summer are acceptable and may be reported for IFE hours.

### **EDU1401 Early Field Experience I (EFE I) January 16 - January 20**

All first-year and transfer students in the Education track and Staff Ministry track will participate in EFE I from Friday, January 16, through Tuesday, January 20, 2026. The activities of EFE I are designed to introduce you to a variety of aspects of the teaching ministry. The activities listed below are a sampling of what you will do during the five days of EFE I.

1. Participate in small group sessions with teachers who describe the various roles of the Christian teacher.
2. Discuss selected educational articles and videos.
3. Participate in teaching brief lessons to your peers.
4. Participate in sessions on communication and interpersonal skills.
5. Develop learning activities for children.
6. Guide children from an area Lutheran elementary school in a learning activity.
7. Enjoy a variety of practical, educational activities.

The second semester begins after the conclusion of EFE I on Thursday, January 22, 2026.

God's blessings. We'll see you in August!