

Child Development Department's Eligibility for Field Experiences and Lab Work Policy (revised July 2009)

Students enrolled in child development courses must be eligible for field experiences as determined by the Child Development's Eligibility for Field Experiences Policy. The Child Development Department's policy reflects the standards established by both:

- The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, which is explained in the catalog and on the "Austin Community College Children's Lab School Criminal Conviction Statement for Child Development Lab Students",
- and criteria set by the Austin Independent School District for volunteer eligibility which prohibit anyone with a felony within the last five years for offenses involving moral turpitude (acts that are generally considered morally or ethically wrong, including crimes that involve dishonesty, fraud, deceit, theft, misrepresentation) or offenses involving drugs and /or alcohol that are not ineligible for participation in field experiences/lab work in a child care center under the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

To continue in child development coursework in which the student is currently enrolled, he or she must be eligible to participate in field experiences/lab work under these criteria.

Students who are determined as ineligible for field experiences under Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) criteria will need to work with the Child Development Chair, the Lab School Director and TDFPS to complete a risk assessment. This typically takes a few months to complete and should be begun the semester before taking child development course.

Students who are ineligible for field experiences due to current, prior or pending felony charges within the last 5 years that are offenses of moral turpitude must obtain departmental approval prior to enrollment in child development courses. The student will meet with the Child Development Chair and the Lab School Director to discuss the student's situation. Factors such as the nature of the offense and pattern of offenses will be reviewed regardless of whether the offense is eligible for a risk assessment. The decision to pursue a risk assessment will be at the discretion of the Child Development Department Chair. A student ineligible for field experiences under offenses of moral turpitude may apply for departmental approval prior to enrolling in classes or during the first week of the semester. If the student chooses to obtain departmental approval during the first week of semester, it is possible that he or she may be asked to withdraw from their child developmental courses.

If any criminal record with a felony, including a pending felony charge, is returned as a result of a criminal background, the student will be withdrawn from child development courses. A student who willfully misrepresents the information on these forms will be withdrawn immediately from all Child Development coursework requiring laboratory experiences in a child care setting and may be subject to the ACC student disciplinary policy outlined in the *Austin Community College Student Handbook*.