Observing, Assisting, Planning, Teaching, & Assessing
ED 321/ED 322 is a required practicum for Elementary Education majors. This pre-student teaching practicum takes place in the middle of the two-semester sequence of elementary methods coursework. It is a full-time, three-week placement during Luther’s January Term. The placement must be in an elementary classroom in which the cooperating teacher is willing and able to let the Luther student plan, teach, and assess a series of lessons. The classroom placement should be one in which both language arts and mathematics instruction are provided.

This experience is an important opportunity to provide both the teacher candidate and his/her professor evidence of readiness to student teach. It is also the candidate’s primary opportunity to have an experience similar to the edTPA, should the candidate be required to engage in the edTPA during student teaching or during his/her first two years as a provisionally-licensed teacher.

Expectations for the Placement
The placement is expected to provide the student a diverse experience. Diversity includes any school community setting that provides a meaningful difference from what the candidate has experienced.

• Unless there is a compelling reason to remain in the immediate environs of Luther College, the candidate is required to seek a placement not included in the list of initial 185/215 practicum placements.

• The methods practicum is an opportunity for the candidate to experience some teaching responsibility in a classroom setting new to the candidate.

• This placement is an opportunity for the candidate to work in a classroom that includes students with particular needs and a cooperating teacher willing to provide guidance, e.g. students with special education needs, ELL, inner city, gifted, a magnet school that focuses on a particular curriculum area.

• The methods practicum provides the candidate a beginning experience in which he or she focuses on the life of a classroom for at least 15 contiguous school days, including the responsibility for the teaching of three to five consecutive lessons that comprise a stand-alone mini-unit or a subset of a larger unit.

• The methods practicum provides the candidate a beginning experience in which he or she is responsible for the assessment of students (pre-, formative, summative; formal and informal).

MINI-UNIT/SERIES of LESSONS much like a Teacher Work Sample (TWS) or the edTPA
This mini-unit provides documentation of the ED 321/322 candidate’s ability to design and implement standards-based instruction, assess student learning, and reflect on the teaching and learning process. This 3-5 day teaching unit will align with content taught in the cooperating teacher's classroom and is determined by the cooperating teacher and Luther candidate prior to the actual placement experience. This mini-unit should be whole-group instruction. The content may be social studies, science, math, or some aspect of language arts such as writing the five-paragraph essay where the learning clearly builds in the 5 days of teaching and the learning can be measured. Developmental skills related to reading and spelling do not work well for the teaching, learning, and assessment that need to be documented in this short series of lessons.

Throughout the Placement
The mini-unit is the primary work of the candidate, but it is hoped that during the three weeks of the placement, the candidate will be able to be included in the life of the classroom and school as much as appropriate, e.g., PLCs, meeting parents. Opportunity for co-teaching would be welcomed. The Luther student is expected to maintain the cooperating teacher’s contract day, but he or she may report earlier or stay later, as makes sense to experiencing the responsibilities of the cooperating teacher.

Video a Lesson
The student will record a lesson he/she teaches in this placement. The expectations are patterned on those of the video recording in the edTPA. The recording is for private use by the candidate consistent with the expectations of the teacher education program in preparation for student teaching. The candidate will follow the policy for video recording established by the school in which he or she is placed.