Professional development in a career field is crucial when applying to jobs specific to the career path that one may choose. Having the opportunity to engage in specific career activities before entering the work force is every bit of one’s advantage to gain knowledge. Gaining knowledge about the subject of the given job can impress one’s future employer’s and offer them a higher standing for the open position the site may have available. This semester as well as last semester I have had the privilege of developing necessary skills I will be using in my career field. I have been volunteering with Jenny Jones teaching majorette lessons through the Opelika Sports Plex.

Since it is the Opelika Sports Plex, it is basically a rec center for children during the fall, spring, and summer semesters. I have learned that the Sports Plex can be of help to parents during the summer as they offer camps that act as a day-care for children who will not have parents at home during the summer months. It gives these children things to keep them busy and entertained during their summer break. I have also learned that the Sports Plex can be useful in other ways as well, since it is technically a rec center, they have softball teams as well as other different sports and they offer majorette lessons as well. Moving here to Auburn last semester, Fall 2016, I was nervous to get involved with anything right away because I felt led to focus on my schoolwork more than anything just fresh at a four year university, but when Jenny offered me to help her I immediately jumped on board with no hesitation. I was a majorette in high school for five years; I twirled my eighth-grade year with the high school and the remaining four years while in high school, so teaching little girls how to twirl was right up my alley.

I have learned so much through myself during the process of teaching the girls I have closely bonded with these past two semesters. I have learned that I can be very shy and I have learned that I cannot stand in silence for the rest of my life, I eventually should get out there and make an impact on society. I have also learned that I must take charge and sometimes get a little stern to get my girls to listen and to get things accomplished in a timely manner. I am currently the new director of the majorette lessons at the Sports Plex because of the odd hours Jenny works at Auburn University. I must coordinate times and lessons with the parents, notify them when we are changing the schedule, I am also in charge of teaching proper majorette techniques, making up routines for three different classes with different advancements and then teaching the routines to the girls to perform at the end of the semester. I am also co-working with Jenny to get t-shirts for the Garden in the Park in Opelika this spring.

I believe this experience will help me in my professional work because I am entering the field of elementary education. Elementary education is all about knowing how to teach kids, discipline kids in the correct manner and completely center oneself on what is best for the children all together. This experience has opened my eyes to the real life of what it is like to be a majorette “teacher” and soon to be a legitimate teacher in a school system and what should be expected of me. I have had to deal with hurt children, upset children, frustrated children, angry children, hyperactive children and happy children and I have learned how to enter and take care of the situation within a matter of seconds. I am a role model to the children I will be teaching and it is highly important that I watch what I say, what I do and even how I act because I always have children’s eyes watching. This time at the Opelika Sports Plex has been good for me, it has helped me develop professionally and given me knowledge for my future endeavors.