GAINING on-the-job experience while still in school is one of the high points of a home economics education major's senior year in college.

And most of the time that experience has the variety typical of a home economics teacher's day. For instance, Ruth Peyer, who was graduated this year, taught general homemaking to a class of junior and senior boys in Ames High School.

"Those boys will make fine husbands," Ruth believes. "I was amazed at how well they could cook and sew."

For their final project the boys cooked an entire dinner—pork chops, potatoes, vegetables and meringue pie. Ruth was checking over the shopping list of two of the boys and found that they had ordered six pork chops and several pounds of potatoes for their meal.

"Homemaking for boys is a baby in the field of home economics," said Ruth, "and the experience gained is extremely valuable." Ruth, who is a textiles and clothing major with a minor in education, agrees that student teaching is a worthwhile addition to an Iowa State curriculum.

The student teaching program works this way: During her senior year, an education major is ready for 6 weeks of practice teaching in one of the five teaching centers—Story City, Ogden, Iowa Falls, Jefferson or Ames. The classes range from freshmen to seniors and are made up of both boys and girls. The women teach full-time besides taking an added course in special teaching methods, so it's a busy 6 weeks.

Supervising Teacher

The methods class is taught by the supervising teacher in each school who also oversees the student teachers' work and helps them over the rough spots in their classes. In this way the women are not given full responsibility for their class, but have understanding and sympathetic help from their supervisor.

Patricia McColly, '50, taught a mixed homemaking class of five senior girls and five senior boys in Ogden High School. Included in the course was a unit of family relations.

"Three of the boys were football stars and they really had some novel homemaking methods," Pat said. "One of the athletes decided to bake a cake for his mother at home. After mixing the ingredients he discovered that his mother didn't have an electric mixer—an essential piece of equipment to him. He solved the problem by jumping in the car with his mixing bowl and driving to his sister's house to use hers before finishing the cake."

Besides her regular teaching duties, Pat helped with the junior-senior banquet, the FHA banquet, a music contest and several other school functions.

School Lunch Program

Planning and supervising the school lunch program in Story City was one of the important jobs Jeanne Robbins, '50, held on her student teaching job. In addition, Jeanne helped with the junior-senior banquet and the state FHA meeting.

Besides this extra-curricular load, Jeanne taught the freshman girls their unit on child development.

"During Veishea some of the girls in my class visited me in Home Management House," Jeanne said. "In 6 short weeks you really develop an interest in your students and I was happy to see them again."