

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This practicum consists of five weeks of fieldwork in an agency providing services to people who have disabilities. Concepts and skills learned in the classroom are applied in community setting through placement with community service agencies. You are expected to work the regular hours of a full-time employee of the agency.

PREREQUISITES: RP1210 and a minimum of 12 credits from the program course of study. You must present Standard First Aid and CPR (Basic Rescuer) certificates. Some agencies and field placements may require a criminal record check prior to the start of this practicum.

COURSE FORMAT

The practicum consists of fieldwork in an agency providing services to people who have developmental disabilities. Students' work hours will be consistent with those of the agency. Where agency staff works shifts, **students must ensure** that at least **60%** of their shifts coincide with their **agency supervisor's** work schedule.

Regular meetings are held with college faculty supervisors.

Classes on Friday afternoons will be conducted in seminar style, requiring student's active participation in discussions. The practicum seminar provides a forum for students to reflect and explore issues related to the field of (re)habilitation, their studies, and their practicum experiences. Students are required to **ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE** in discussions.

Students will be involved in developing an agenda for the seminar session at the beginning of each class meeting. (Examples of agenda items: questions related to clarification of course material/assignment, resolution of difficulties with classes or with field placements, etc.) Students are encouraged to identify other issues, relevant to the field, especially current issues raised by the media.

A portion of each seminar will focus on discussion of practicum experiences. Students are expected to bring comments related to the highlights of their experience, what they learned, and what they need to learn in preparation for their next practicum. Sharing experiences will provide students the opportunity to explore how concepts and skills learned in classes are effectively / appropriately applied to a variety of practical settings.

Progress and challenges with respect to practicum assignments will also be addressed.

Students are reminded that information about the people with whom they work is **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL** and as such must not be discussed or repeated outside the seminar.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Demonstrate responsible and professional attitudes and behaviour
2. Take on increasingly responsible roles and tasks as the practicum progresses.
3. Become actively involved with people served by the agency individually and/or in groups.
4. Develop a positive rapport with people served by the agency on an individual and/or group basis.
5. Develop further awareness of the range of programs and services in our community for individuals who have disabilities.
6. Become familiar with the nature and scope of the agency's programs and services.
7. Work effectively as a team member with agency staff.
8. Assist in the implementation of existing programs designed to achieve the individuals' goals.
9. Apply theory to practise:
 - a) interpersonal and helping skills
 - b) values
 - c) behavioural skills
 - d) health issues
10. Develop and implement a plan to meet relevant personal learning objectives that have been identified by the student for him/herself.
11. Express points of view, feelings, and concerns regarding courses and issues in the field of (re)habilitation.
12. Examine and discuss strategies relevant to the facilitation of community participation of citizens who have disabilities.
13. Evaluate their performance on practicum and work with their classmates to develop strategies for improvement.
14. Take a leadership role in facilitating discussion of seminar topics.

Course Requirements

Mandatory Attendance

Log Book

This assignment allows the student to reflect on the attitudes, skills and knowledge experienced within practicum placement. The logbooks contain activities related to the practicum that need to be completed on a regular basis. The books are designed so that the weekly section may be removed and submitted. Logbooks are to be submitted to their faculty supervisor (placed in the mailbox in the front office) every Friday.

Northwest Region Rehabilitation Conference – May 18 and 19

Students are given time off from practicum to attend this conference. There is no cost for the students to attend. Students are expected to help in hosting the conference.

Practicum Evaluation

Agency Practicum Evaluation

Agency personnel complete a practicum evaluation form for each student they supervise.

A midterm evaluation will be completed to provide you with formative feedback on your progress. This evaluation does not factor into the decision to grant or not grant credit

The evaluation will be repeated at the end of the practicum. This evaluation will be important in determining whether or not you earn credit for the course.

Faculty Field Placement Evaluation

Faculty evaluate students based on observations of strengths and needs in the field and review of field experiences and reflection as per the student's journal. The extent to which the student uses supervision to maximize learning will be taken into account in the faculty evaluation. Students are expected to be prepared to address specific issues during faculty supervision visits.

Creditation

The Practicum is a credit / no credit course. Successful completion of the practicum requires that:

- the student successfully complete ALL required assignments
- evaluation of the student's performance is satisfactory as indicated by both the agency and the supervising instructor.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **Attendance is mandatory.** Students absent due to illness must notify **both** the instructor and the agency supervisor **PRIOR** to the student's expected time of arrival. Students are expected to make personal appointments outside of course time.

Illness or absence in excess of ten percent of the hours required for the practicum will require a medical certificate and will be made up at a time mutually agreed upon by agency, student, and the College.

Failure to comply with the above will result in unexcused absences. Three unexcused absences may result in course failure.

2. Assignments must be received by 4:00 p.m. on the day on which they are due.
3. Both the agency supervisor and the student are required to notify the faculty supervisor immediately if serious performance and/or related difficulties should arise so that an attempt can be made to rectify the situation prior to final evaluation of the student and/or withdrawal of the placement.