

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
REHABILITATION SERVICES PROGRAM

APR 11 2001

RP1206 PRACTICUM

Spring 2001 April 23 - May 30, 2001

LOCATION: Each student will be assigned to an agency serving people with developmental disabilities.

The Friday seminar component will be held in room **H211**.

TIME: Hours will vary. Generally students will attend practicum Monday through Friday, working the same hours as do paraprofessional employed in full time positions by the agency in which the student is placed. (Note: Friday afternoons will be spent in class at the College) Weekend hours may be required in shift work settings to ensure that the student and agency supervisor work together for a minimum of 60% of the shifts.

The seminar component will be held on **Fridays** from **1:00 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.**

HOURS: 160 hours in total

INSTRUCTOR: Marsha Zalik Office: H230
539-2894 (office)
email: zalik@gprc.ab.ca

NOTE: Each student is responsible for contacting his or her agency supervisor one week prior to the start of practicum.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This practicum consists of five weeks of fieldwork in an agency providing services to people who have developmental disabilities. The practicum is designed to enable students to apply the theories, principles, and techniques studied in the classroom to the practical setting. Students are also offered the opportunity to develop further their familiarity with the nature and scope of services provided to individuals with developmental disabilities.

EVALUATION:

1. Agency Field Placement Evaluation

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

2. Faculty Field Placement Evaluation

The faculty field supervisor completes an evaluation of the student's performance based on observations and student data sheets.

CREDITATION:

The Practicum is credited on a credit/no credit basis. Successful completion of the practicum requires that the student demonstrate growth with respect to all course objectives. All required assignments and evaluations must be successfully completed.

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 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.

Extensions will be considered only if students have notified the instructor, gotten agreement from the instructor, and made further arrangements **prior** to the assignment due date.

3. Both the employer 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.

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

1. Student Data Sheets

Students are required to complete a total of 30 data sheets (about 6 per week).

- a) objectives 1 - 7: minimum of 2 data sheets for each objective
- b) objective 8: a minimum of 4 data sheets for each area (a-d)

Each data sheet is for the purpose of identifying your behaviour in a specific situation that applies directly to an objective for this course.

Date sheets **must** be handed in to your faculty supervisor **weekly**.

Each data sheet requires:

- a) description of the situation (context),
- b) your behaviour (what you did),
- c) what you learned,
- d) how this learning will affect your work (in this setting or in the future).

2. Self Evaluation:

While on practicum you are required to keep track of two situations you handled well and two situations you could have handled more effectively for each week of practicum. During Integration Seminar, you must be prepared to discuss each situation, describing your behavior and specifying why that behavior was appropriate or not and, where applicable, specifying a more appropriate/effective behavior. You may use situations from your data sheets.

3. Ecological Inventory

An Ecological Inventory Discrepancy Analysis must be completed in either RP1206, RP2306, or RP2406. Detailed guidelines will be provided.

4. A.B.A. Programming Assignment

An Applied Behavioral Analysis program designed to INCREASE a behavior or to TEACH a new skill must be completed in RP1206, RP2306, or RP2406. Detailed assignment guidelines will be provided.

PREREQUISITES: All first year RP courses:
RP1100, RP1101, RP1102, RP1104, RP1108
RP1200, RP1201, RP1202, and RP1203

COURSE FORMAT

The practicum consists of fieldwork in an agency providing services to people who have developmental disabilities. Students will work the regular working hours of the agency. Where agency staff work shifts, students must ensure that at least 60% of their shifts coincide with agency supervisor's work schedule. Regular meetings are held with college faculty and field practicum supervisors.

Classes on Friday afternoons will be conducted in seminar style, requiring student's active participation in discussions.

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.
7. Work effectively as a team member with agency staff.
8. Apply theory to practise:
 - a) interpersonal skills
 - b) behavioral skills
 - c) values
 - d) health issues