

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY REHABILITATION
“Making a Difference”

RP1206 PRACTICUM

Spring 2003 April 28 - May 30, 2003

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

TIME: Hours will vary. Generally students will attend practicum Monday through Friday, working the same hours as do paraprofessionals employed in full time positions at 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, 1:00 - 2:20 p.m.**
Room: TBA

CREDITS: 3 Credits; 160 hours

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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.

PREREQUISITES: RP1100, CD2100 or RP1101, RP1102, RP1104, RP1108, RP1201, RP1202, RP1203, and RP1209

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 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.

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

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

1. Reflective Journal

A journal is a writing exercise that has a degree of openness with respect to form and content. It is a private record of how students feel about, and make sense of their learning while on practicum.

The reasons for using journals are to:

1. Connect course concepts and techniques to new experiences
2. Connect course concepts and techniques to past experiences
3. Develop reflective orientation in students

Students are required to purchase hardcover notebook in which to record their thoughts, feeling, and reflections on how they are meeting the course objectives. It is important to take time each week to write in your journal. (use the left side of the open book only) Completed journals will be submitted to the practicum faculty supervisor each week. The supervisor will then provide feedback on the right side, and return them to the student during the weekly visit or place them in your student mailbox.

A rubric for evaluation of journals is attached.

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. Record these in your journal.

During Integration Seminar, you must be prepared to

- discuss each situation,
- describing your behavior
- specifying why that behavior was appropriate or not
- where applicable, specifying a more appropriate/effective behavior.

3. A.B.A. Programming Assignment

An Applied Behavioral Analysis program designed to INCREASE a behavior or to TEACH a new skill is the assignment of choice. You are required:

- to target a behaviour
- collect baseline data and design an intervention
- Due to the time constraints of practicum you are **not required to implement** your intervention.

Detailed assignment guidelines are attached.

4. Ecological Inventory

Occasionally a student's placement does not provide opportunity to complete the programming assignment described above. In that case you are required to complete an Ecological Inventory Discrepancy Analysis which includes:

- Competent user inventory
- Learner inventory
- Discrepancy identification
- Participation strategies
- Prioritization

Detailed assignment guidelines are attached.

EVALUATION

1. Agency Field Placement 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.

2. 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 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 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.