

**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE  
HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
DISABILITY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT  
"Making a Difference"**

**RP1210 PRACTICUM**

**CREDITS:** 3

**Winter 2006:** January 16 to April 5, 2007

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

Classroom for seminar: B302

**Time:** Generally students will be at their practicum sites all day **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**.

**Seminar: Mondays** 1:00 to 1:50.

**Hours:** 160 hours in total

**Instructors:** Dolly McArthur  
Office: H210  
539-2787  
[dmcArthur@grpc.ab.ca](mailto:dmcArthur@grpc.ab.ca)

Theresa Suderman  
Office: H204  
539-2041  
[tsuderman@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:tsuderman@gprc.ab.ca)

Marsha Zalik  
Office: H132  
539-2709  
[mzalik@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:mzalik@gprc.ab.ca)

## **Course Prerequisites**

RP1100, RP1209 and a minimum of nine (9) other credits in the Disability and Community Support Program.

## **Course Description**

This practicum consists 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 further develop their familiarity with the nature and scope of services provided to individuals with developmental disabilities.

## **Required Text**

Practicum Handbook for Supervisors and Students. Disability and Community Support Program.

## **Course Format**

Students are expected to work approximately 14 hours per week. Actual hours will vary slightly depending on the nature and structure of the agency and the services it provides. Students will be responsible for the implementation of agency services and are not expected to take responsibility for decisions regarding program planning and design. Regular visits by an instructor will be scheduled with the student and agency supervisor throughout the practicum.

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

## Course Requirements

1. Mandatory Attendance.
2. Theory to Practice Workbook

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 weekly 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 Monday.

## Field Placement Evaluation

Agency personnel complete a Practicum Evaluation Form for each student they supervise.

Faculty evaluates students based on observations of strengths and needs in the field and review of field experiences and reflection as per the student's logbook. 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 and that the evaluation of the student's performance be satisfactorily evaluated by both the agency and the supervising instructor.

## Rules and Regulations

1. Attendance is mandatory for both practicum and seminar. 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.

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

2. Illness or absence in excess of ten percent of the hours required for the practicum will be expected to be made up.

Absence in excess of 3 hours of seminar class will necessitate the negotiation of a learning contract with the instructor(s). Should the student fail to meet the terms of the contract, credit for this course may not be granted.

Extenuating circumstances may be considered on an individual basis.

3. Student conduct: Please familiarize yourself with pages 43 to 47 of the Grande Prairie Regional College 2005-2006 calendar.