

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

REHABILITATION SERVICES PROGRAM

RP2306 PRACTICUM

Fall 1999 September 13 - December 3, 1999

Location: Each student will be assigned to an agency serving people with developmental disabilities.
Seminar will be in D213.

Time: Tuesday & Thursday afternoons & all day Friday (or as set by the agency)
The seminar component will be held on Wednesdays from 11:00 - 12:30.

Instructors:

Betty Barton Office: H229
539-2892 (office)

Dolly McArthur Office: H204
539-2787 (office)

Tanya Ray Office: H230
539-2894 (office)

Prerequisites: All RP first year courses

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.

The Seminar aspect provides a forum for students to resolve issues and explore areas related to the field of (re)habilitation, their studies and their practicum experiences.

Student agendas are posted on the instructor's office door. Students should place on the agenda all items they wish dealt with during the seminar. Questions related to clarification of course material or assignments, and resolution of difficulties with classes or field placements may be addressed. Students are also encouraged to identify other issues, relevant to the field, that may be of concern to them, especially current issues raised by the media.

A portion of each seminar will focus on discussion of practicum experiences. Students are reminded that information about the people they work with is **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL** and as such must not be discussed or repeated outside of the seminar.

As seminars are intended to be student centered and student driven, students will be required to define the criteria by which they will measure the "success" of this course and evaluate themselves against this criteria.

Course Format

Students are expected to work two afternoons and one full day a week (approximately 13 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 approximately every two weeks with the student and agency supervisor throughout the practicum.

Classes will be conducted in seminar style, requiring students' active participation in discussions. Student-led discussions will be incorporated.

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 utilised by the agency.

6. Assist in the implementation of existing programs designed to achieve the individuals' goals.
7. Apply theory to practise:
 - a) interpersonal skills
 - b) values
 - c) behavioral 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 their 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.

Credit Requirements

1. Student Data Sheets

You are required to complete a total of 30 data sheets (about 3 per week).

- a) objectives 1 - 6: minimum of 2 data sheets for each objective
- b) objective 7: 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,
how you will use your new knowledge.

2. Personal Objectives (self-assessment and personal growth)

Make up two personal objectives relating to your behaviour on practicum (objective #8)

Please include:

- a) what your personal objective is,
- b) how you will accomplish it,
- c) how you will know if you did it.

3. Ecological Inventory

An Ecological Inventory Discrepancy Analysis must be completed in either RP1206, RP2306, or RP2406. If you do not have a copy of the assignment guidelines, please ask your faculty supervisor for one.

4. A.B.A. Programming Assignment

An Applied Behavior Analysis program designed to INCREASE a behavior or to TEACH a new skill must be completed in either RP1206, RP2306 or RP2406. If you do not have a copy of the assignment guidelines, please ask your faculty supervisor for one.

PLEASE NOTE: It is recommended that you complete each assignment during separate practica, rather than leaving all assignments for RP2406!!

Field Placement Evaluation

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

Faculty evaluate students based on observations of strengths and needs in the field and on student data sheets. 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.