

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 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. 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.

Course Format

Students are expected to work 10 to 12 hours per week. Scheduled 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

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. Assist in the implementation of existing programs designed to achieve the individual's goals.
9. Apply theory to practise:
 - a) interpersonal skills
 - b) behavioral skills
 - c) values
 - 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 their 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 developmental 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:

1. Mandatory Attendance

2. Reflective Journals

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 reason for using journals is 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 will be provided with a 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) Your completed journals will be submitted to your practicum faculty supervisor a minimum of every two weeks. Your supervisor will then provide feedback on the right side, and return them to the student's mailbox.

Please complete 2 journal entries reflecting your application of objectives #1 through #7. For objective #9 you must complete 4 journal entries for each area (a-d).

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

Make up two personal objectives relating to your behavior on practicum. (objective #10)

Please include:

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

3. 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 will be expected to address specific issues during faculty supervision visits.

Grading System

This is a credit/non-credit course. Successful completion of the practicum requires that the student be credited with successful completion of ALL assignments and evaluations.

Professionalism

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 field experience of practicum is expected to be made up.

Absences in excess of 3 hours of seminar class time 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. Right and Responsibilities – Please familiarize yourself with page 37 of the Grande Prairie Regional College Calendar.