

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PROGRAM

RP2406 PRACTICUM

COURSE OUTLINE

WINTER 2002

SEMINAR: January 9, 2002 to April 10, 2002

Location: A304
On-line (WebCT)

1. The bulk of seminar will take place on the discussion board on the course WebCT site. Students are expected to post their experiences, reflections, concerns, and questions about their Practicum experiences at least once a week. Students are also expected to respond to posts from classmates.

From time to time the instructor will post questions to which all students are expected to respond. Responses to classmates posts will be expected as well.

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 of the seminar. Access to the course website is password protected and may, therefore, be used for posting confidential information.

2. Seminar meetings will be held monthly, providing a forum for face-to-face discussion of Practicum experiences.

Meetings will be held in room A304 on the following dates.

- January 9
- February 6
- March 6
- April 3

Course Description

Practicum consists of fieldwork in an agency providing services to people who have developmental disabilities. Practicum is designed to enable students to apply the theories, principles, and techniques studied in the classroom to the practical setting. Practicum also provides students the opportunity to learn more about the nature and scope of services provided to individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Seminar component provides a forum for students to reflect and explore issues related to the field of (re)habilitation, their studies and their Practicum experiences.

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.

Seminar, both on-line and face-to-face, also provides students the opportunity to assist each other with the completion of programming and/or ecological inventory assignments. (see below)

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 with the exception of the programming assignment (see below). Regular visits by an instructor will be scheduled approximately every two weeks with the student and agency supervisor throughout the Practicum.

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 individuals' goals.
7. Apply theory to practice in the following areas:
 - 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 developed by the student for him/herself.
9. Express points of view, feelings, concerns and reflections regarding courses, Practicum experiences, 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 posting issues for discussion on-line.

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.

Journals are used to:

1. Connect course concepts and techniques to new experiences.
2. Connect course concepts and techniques to past experiences.
3. Develop reflective practice skills.

Students will be provided with a hardcover notebook in which to record their observations, thoughts, feelings, and reflections on their Practicum experiences and on their progress toward meeting the course objectives. It is important to take time each week to write in journals. (Student should write only on the left side of the open book.)

Journals are to be submitted to your Practicum faculty supervisor weekly. Faculty supervisors will provide feedback on the right side, and return journals to the students' mailboxes. When the Faculty supervisor asks for further reflection, thoughts, or opinions from students, use the right side of the journal to respond.

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

Students must develop two personal objectives relating to performance on Practicum. (objective #8)

Include

- a) a statement of your personal objective
- b) a plan for accomplishing the objective
- c) evidence you will use to determine if you have accomplished the objective

3. Ecological Inventory

An Ecological Inventory Discrepancy Analysis must be completed in either 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.

5. 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, journal entries, and seminar input. The extent to which the student uses supervision to maximize learning will be taken into account in the faculty evaluation. Students are expected to prepare for faculty supervision visits with specific issues and materials they wish to address.

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.