

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
REHABILITATION SERVICES PROGRAM

RP2406 PRACTICUM

Winter 2003 January 13 - April 4, 2003

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

Time:
Tuesday and Thursday mornings
Friday all day
(or as negotiated between the student and the agency)

Hours: 16 hours per week
178 hours in total

Instructors: **Marsha C. Zalik** **Office:** H230
539-2894
mzalik@grpc.ab.ca
(Or WebCT email)

Rita Stonell **Office:** H204
539-2787
rstonell@gprc.ab.ca

Terrah Lindsay **Office:** E401 - 11
539-2238
tlindsay@gprc.ab.ca

Prerequisite: **RP2306**

Pre or co-requisites: **a minimum of 12 credits in second year RP 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.

Course Format

Students are expected to work four half days each week (approximately 16 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. 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. Student-led discussions will be incorporated.

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) 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.
- Express points of view, feelings, and concerns regarding courses and issues in the field of (re)habilitation.
 - Examine and discuss strategies relevant to the facilitation of community participation of citizens who have developmental disabilities.
 - Evaluate their performance on practicum and work with their classmates to develop strategies for improvement.
 - Take a leadership role in facilitating discussion of seminar topics.

Course Requirements

1. **Mandatory Attendance.**
2. **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.

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 are required to provide themselves 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

day write in journals.

Students should write their daily entries on the left side of the open book. The right side page will be used for instructor comments and student / instructor dialogue.

Journals are to be submitted to your Practicum faculty supervisor weekly. Faculty supervisors will provide feedback, 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)

Make up two personal objectives relating to your behaviour on practicum.

Please include:

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

4. 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.

5. 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 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.