

ED231
Practicum IV
5 Credits

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ED231 Version: 15



Practicum IV

Calendar Description

This course is the concluding practicum of the second year Early Learning and Child Care program. Reflecting and building on their learning experiences of the previous practicum, students plan, implement, and evaluate an early learning and child care program with guidance from supervising personnel. This is a pass/fail course.

Rationale

This is a required course for Early Learning and Child Care diploma students. A Practicum provides students with opportunities to observe, develop, implement, and evaluate their interactions with children, parents, and colleagues. This experience also allows students to apply the knowledge they have gained from the Early Learning and Child Care program. Students act as supervisors to plan, implement and evaluate early childhood curriculum. Work Skills seminars provide opportunity for professional development in administrative issues and tasks related to the early childhood workplace.

Prerequisites

None

Co-Requisites

All Early Learning and Child Care 2nd year course work with an overall GPA of 2.0 or greater.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. research and attend personal or professional development
 - Early Learning and Child Care workshops, or conferences, site visits
 - activities that enhance personal development and team building
2. demonstrate
 1. respect for individuality
 2. appropriate work ethics

3. self motivation
 4. stamina
 5. positive interpersonal communication skills
 6. appropriate programming skills
 7. professional attitude
 8. responsibility for materials and equipment
 9. appropriate guidance techniques
3. analyse the program in terms of
 - philosophy
 - routines
 - menu plans
 - planning format
 - staffing plan
 - environment and organization of the room(s)
 4. interact with
 - children (including infant/toddler)
 - peers
 - parents
 - instructors
 - other personnel
 5. evaluate self in terms of
 - time management skills
 - individual and group interpersonal skills
 - personal philosophy
 - planning and implementation skills
 - prosocial guidance techniques utilized

Resource Materials

Required Text:

Early Learning and Child Care course materials

Reference Text:

None

Conduct of Course

Students spend four weeks in an approved child care facility that provides opportunities for supervisory experience.

- program planning for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

- administrative responsibilities such as staff scheduling, basic accounting, writing newsletters and parent communication, menu planning, planning and maintaining the environment.
- self-reflection and evaluation from supervisor.

Evaluation Procedures

Students are evaluated through direct observation and constructive feedback from practicum and College supervisors and reflective self-evaluation in the creation of a portfolio. Students must successfully complete all components of the course in order to receive a passing grade.

A Pass/Fail grade is awarded upon completion of the practicum.

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for success in any course. Absence for any reason does not relieve a student of the responsibility of completing course work to the satisfaction of the instructor. Students may be required to make up missed practicum hours. In case of repeated absences due to illness, the student may be requested to submit a medical certificate. Poor attendance may result in the suspension of a student from the practicum.

Students are required to inform their instructor and practicum supervisor of any missed time prior to the start of the work day.

Course Units/Topics

This course is divided into two sections, a work skills seminar during the semester and a four week practicum placement at the end of the semester.

1. Professional and/or personal development
 - a. workshops and/or conferences that enhance professional development including site visits and guest speakers
 - b. leisure activities that enhance personal development
2. Program Planning for Infants and Toddlers through Preschool Aged Children demonstrated in a professional portfolio.
 - a. Observation
 - b. Research
 - c. Planning for four weeks (20 plans)
 - d. Learning story (4)
 - e. Weekly self-reflections (4)

3. Learning Environment Reflections

- a. Staff schedule (shifts and breaks)
- b. Set-up of environment
- c. Communications (newsletters, bulletin boards, day to day with parents/staff)
- d. Menu plan for snacks and meals (three weeks -including evaluation)
- e. Schedule for children (daily plans, weekly, monthly programming)

Please note professionalism and confidentiality are expected at all times.



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