

ED 231
Practicum IV
5 Credits

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Created: 01/05/2000

Revised: 09/06/2021

Approval: 11/06/2021

The Implementation Date for this Outline is 01/01/2022

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ED 231 Version: 16



Practicum IV

Calendar Description

This practicum in the second year is designed for students to demonstrate the knowledge gained from their early learning and child care courses through the examination of the operation of an approved child care setting. This practicum involves the creation of a portfolio which demonstrates reflective practice, including program planning for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, the creation of learning stories, an analysis of administrative responsibilities and the environment.

Rationale

This is a required course for Early Learning and Child Care diploma students. Work integrated learning experiences provide students with opportunities to observe, develop, implement, and reflect on their interactions with children, families and colleagues. This experience also allows for opportunities to apply knowledge gained in the Early Learning and Child Care program. Students are placed in an approved child care setting as an opportunity to be immersed in and reflect on early childhood practice.

Prerequisites

ED 230 with GPA of 2.0 or greater.

Co-Requisites

Students must have completed or be in the process of successfully completing 8 courses in Early Learning and Child Care program with an overall GPA of 2.0 or greater.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. demonstrate
 - respect for individuality
 - appropriate work ethics
 - self motivation
 - stamina

- positive interpersonal communication skills
 - appropriate programming skills
 - professional attitude
 - responsibility for materials and equipment
 - appropriate guidance techniques
2. plan a quality program in terms of
 - observation
 - prepare materials and learning environment
 - plan curriculum experiences
 - create learning stories
 - reflection
 3. interact with
 - children
 - families
 - staff
 - practicum supervisor
 - assigned college instructor
 - other personnel
 4. evaluate self in terms of
 - time management skills
 - individual and group interpersonal skills
 - personal philosophy and professional development
 - planning and implementation skills
 - prosocial guidance techniques

Resource Materials

Early Learning and Child Care course materials

Conduct of Course

Students spend four weeks in an approved childcare setting that provides opportunity for learning about program planning, program daily operations, policies, and procedures.

Students submit a collection of information demonstrating their knowledge and skills regarding current practice, implementing programming, and reflective practice.

Evaluation Procedures

Students are evaluated through direct observation, mentorship, and communication with the practicum supervisor. Students submit their assignments to their assigned instructor. The grade is assigned based on the feedback from the practicum supervisor and the quality of the assignments. Students are required to complete all assignments.

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 workday.

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
 - a. observation
 - b. research
 - c. planning for four weeks
 - d. learning stories
 - e. reflection
3. Program operation, policies, and procedures
 - a. philosophy mission/vision
 - b. staff scheduling
 - c. environment arrangement
 - d. communication with families
 - e. menu planning
 - f. schedule and routines for program

4. Reflective practice
 - a. professional communication
 - b. professional development
 - c. application of knowledge
 - d. program planning

You are to be actively involved in the Early Learning and Child Care setting in which you are placed.

Please note professionalism and confidentiality are always expected.



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