

ED 794 – Practicum Syllabus

Credits: 2 semester credits

I. Description of the Practicum

The educational leadership practicum is a supervised administrative experience in several role specialization areas. The general purpose of the practicum is to give students an opportunity:

- to implement the theories and principles acquired in class;
- to complete portions of the portfolio competencies and;
- to experience diverse working situations.

The program of educational leadership at Tri-College University is designed to promote the continued development and professional growth of prospective administrators. Achievement of program objectives requires an early and continuous integration of theory and practice. The practicum is considered one of the most important courses in a student's program. It is the opportunity to apply skills and theories that can be monitored, reflected upon, and improved.

The practicum implies a team relationship among the student, the cooperating administrator and the college practicum supervisor. Because the experience takes place in a real life setting, the cooperating field supervisor serves in the role of coach or mentor. In cases where students are working towards a licensure/credential, the field supervisor must be licensed in the specialty area. Communication between all parties is essential for achievement of the goal of preparing quality administrators for our schools.

II. Reasoned Action Leadership Model

This practicum is organized to attain several intended outcomes. The methodologies employed herein are in accordance with the **Reasoned Action Leadership Model** of development. This model is based upon current knowledge of teaching and schooling. The model also incorporates research with regard to administration and leadership as found in the Educational Leadership Constituency Council of National Policy Board Standards for Educational Administration programs and licensure/credential standards of the States of Minnesota and North Dakota.

The Reasoned Action Leadership Model holds as fundamental that schools/learning organizations function in a professional sphere, which focuses on activities associated with teaching and learning. The practicum is viewed as a capstone experience, which allows student the opportunity to practice knowledge, skills and disposition in areas of specialization.

III: Practicum Objectives

Knowledge:

- Review and practice concepts of administrative theory.
- Apply legal, political, and ethical principles that apply to the practicum.
- Apply the appropriate research base for the practicum.

Attitude:

- Develop an awareness of the interdependence of all people in local communities and the greater political and social context of education.
- Become sensitive to differences among cultural constituencies in the local school district, state, and nation.
- To implement change in curriculum and instruction, using assessment to accommodate differences in culture.

Skills:

- To learn from the experiences and insights of practicing administrators.
- To test the theories and principles acquired during classes with the Reasoned Action Leadership Model.
- To assess commitment to a career in educational administration by involvement in a variety of experiences in district or building level operations, management techniques, curricular implementation and budget preparation.
- To demonstrate competency in the identified strengths and derailers cited in the students' portfolios.

IV. Course Requirements

1. Prepare a draft of your portfolio grid to determine the competencies and indicators you will choose to work on during your practicum.
2. Get approval from your Advisor to register for a practicum.
3. Meet with a licensed Field Supervisor to determine appropriate projects and sites for your practicum.
4. Complete the Practicum Contract and submit it to your University Supervisor for approval. **Note: Work completed before the approval of the Practicum Contract will not count toward hour requirements.**
5. If any changes are made to your practicum, they must be approved by the University Supervisor and the Field Supervisor.
6. Upon completion of your practicum, forward all practicum documents to the University Supervisor for assessment and signatures.

IV. Practicum Hour Requirements

All practicum must be completed within 12 continuous months in elementary, middle school/junior high, secondary schools, or district offices with a licensed educational

administrator appropriate for the activities of the practicum. Each two credit hour practicum must include 110 hours of documented experiences.

V. Practicum Types / Prerequisites

Note: In certain situations, you may be able to enroll in a practicum before all prerequisites have been met. You must discuss these issues with your university advisor and the University Supervisor [identified in the semester schedule] prior to enrollment.

Community Education:

Prerequisites: 689 or 718, 789

General Leadership:

Prerequisites: All master's level course work

Elementary Administration:

Prerequisites: All master's level course work

Secondary Administration:

Prerequisites: All master's level course work

Superintendency:

Prerequisites: All master's level course work and: 788, 690/790
(Superintendency Seminar)

Supervision:

Prerequisites: 635/735, 684/784 or 782

Budget & Finance:

Prerequisites: 636/736, 783, and 788

Special Education:

Prerequisites: All master's level course work and 796 (Seminar in Special Education)

VII. Texts

Texts and reference materials for professional development will be recommended as applicable to the individual student. It is recommended that students purchase one of the following:

Schon, D. A. (1995). The reflective practitioner: How professionals think in action. Aldershot [England]: Arena. ISBN: 1857423194

Short, P. M. (1997). Reflection in administrator preparation. Peabody Journal of Education. 72, (2). p. 86-99.

VIII. Professional Ethics

Work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with NDSU Senate Policy, Section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct.

(See <http://ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm>)

IX. Accommodations:

NDSU - A student with a disability or other special needs and who requires special accommodations for success in this course is invited to share those concerns or requests with the instructor as soon as possible.

MSUM - “Students with disabilities who believe they may need an accommodation in the class are encouraged to contact Greg Toutges, Coordinator of Disability Services at 218-477-5859 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (MRS/TTY), CMU 114 as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.”