

COURSE:

No. 398

Title: Practicum in Recreation/Therapeutic Recreation

Credits: 3 s.h.

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COURSE SYLLABUS

Department of Recreation and Tourism

Course Number: 398

Course Title: Practicum in Recreation/Therapeutic Recreation

(Pre-requisites: Must have completed RTTR 229 and 245 and consent OR special permission of department.)

1. Catalog Description

This course offers one an opportunity to learn by experience and further one's professional development under the careful guidance of experienced professionals and college supervisors. (May be repeated once for credit in different settings).

2. Statement of Major Focus and Objectives of the Course

When students, agency professionals and university faculty are brought together through a practicum experience, all three groups will benefit. While the primary aim of the practicum experience is to enhance the preparation of future recreation professionals, other positive outcomes should be recognized. The student, university, and agency objectives to be obtained as a result of this practicum class are outlined below.

Student/Course Objectives

* It is imperative that RLS and TR majors receive extensive exposure to their professional field prior to graduation. Most of the entry level jobs in Recreation and Therapeutic Recreation are gained by individuals with sound educational backgrounds along with a variety of practical, pre-professional experiences in the field. An objective of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to gain pre-professional experience in various areas of their chosen profession.

* The practicum experience will enable the recreation major to "sample" various potential employment areas within the field.

*The practicum experience will serve as a catalyst in assisting recreation majors to relate textbook knowledge and classroom discussion with an actual field experience.

* The practicum experience will provide students with the opportunity to observe, practice, and apply theory to specific situation. Through such experiences students will gain a greater understanding of the duties and responsibilities of full time recreation and park personnel.

* Throughout, and following involvement in a practicum experience, students will gain the opportunity for self-evaluation in terms of his/her training, strengths and weaknesses.

* The practicum experience will provide students with the opportunity to expand and develop strong human relation skills.

* Through practicum experience(s) students will build professional experience and accomplishments for a resume.

* Through practicum experience(s), students will be provided with the opportunity to observe and later to articulate their understanding of the working relationships between employees at all levels within an organization.

* As a result of practicum involvement students will expand their philosophy and knowledge of the recreation and parks profession.

University Objectives:

* The addition of a practicum course will provide the WSU recreation faculty with additional laboratories to test the relevance of the academic program. Related to this, the addition of a practicum course will provide recreation faculty with continuing opportunity for evaluation of the student's needs, abilities, and progress leading to adjustments in the curriculum.

*The addition of a practicum course will provide faculty with new opportunities to keep abreast of programs, issues, concerns, and innovations of professionals in the field and strengthen the educational process which prepares future professionals.

*The addition of a practicum course will provide the recreation faculty with additional opportunities for contact with professional practitioners.

*The addition of a practicum course will further acquaint recreation faculty with the needs of employers through their contact and interaction with agency supervisors.

*The addition of a practicum course will assist the recreation division in identifying the strengths and weaknesses in the curriculum of the Recreation and Leisure Studies and Therapeutic Recreation Programs at WSU.

Agency Objectives

*The addition of a practicum course will provide opportunities for interested agencies to become partners in the professional preparation of future recreation and parks personnel.

*The addition of a practicum course will provide agencies with the opportunity to recruit trained workers and/or evaluate prospective candidates for later employment.

*The addition of a practicum course will provide agencies with opportunities to serve additional clientele through the contributions of the practicum student.

*The addition of a practicum course will provide agencies with a contact with educators in the field.

3. Course Outline of the Major Topics and Subtopics

Depending upon the selected site, the content of the practicum will vary significantly. All students are expected to obtain an on-site orientation and become involved in the observation, as well as the planning, promotion, and implementation of ongoing recreation programs.

To obtain a blue card for this course, the student will complete the following 'Practicum Application Form.' Please cut and paste and email this form to: lolson@winona.edu

Practicum Application Form

Your name:

Your tech ID number

A phone number at which you can be reached

Approximate dates and times in which you intend to complete your practicum (i.e.

Tuesday afternoons, 12:30 – 4:30).

Site Name and Address:

Site web address:

Site Supervisor Name and Title:

Site Supervisor's Email:

Site Supervisor's Phone:

Is this a RT or TR Practicum?

A sentence or two that describing clientele served and 4-5 of your duties and responsibilities.

During his/her practicum the student will:

1. Complete a 100 hour practicum experience in on site under an approved practicum supervisor
2. Maintain an hours log and brief description of all practicum experiences. (At the end of each day the student completes practicum hours he/she should document the time spent on site and write a sentence or two re: what he/she did that day. Include any impressions, new insights, etc. when appropriate).
3. Attend any required agency orientation and in-service training programs

4. Plan, promote, implement, and evaluate a special project for the agency in which he/she is doing his/her practicum. Note: This is a good idea but not mandatory if the site supervisor does not feel a special project fits their agency needs.
5. Remind site supervisor to email evaluation forms at the appropriate time or submit signed evaluation form along with your report and hours log. (Note: Students should request that site supervisor go over his/her evaluation with the student in person prior to sending it to the University.)
6. Submit a typewritten, signed report on his/her experiences that includes the following:
 - A. A cover page with the following information
 1. Agency where practicum experience took place _____
 2. Clientele worked with _____
 3. Address and phone number of agency _____
 4. Agency supervisor _____ Title _____
 5. Dates and times of experiences _____
 - B. Respond to each of the following, forming the body of the report. (Please include a heading for each topic area)
 1. Needs and/or interests of the clientele served
 2. Short and long-term objectives of the agency/program
 3. Recreation activities observed, participated in and/or planned and implemented
 4. Other recreational activities conducted while student was not present
 5. Equipment/areas/facilities utilized to conduct recreation programs
 6. Personnel involved in the recreation program: training, educational, or professional background of staff
 7. Assessment procedures: methods/testing instruments/evaluation techniques/charting procedures and/or other documentation procedures
 8. Suggestions for additional recreation services: insight, perception
 9. A summary of the program or special project the student planned, promoted, implemented, and evaluated
 10. Comments/reactions to overall experience
 11. Implications of this experience to my professional development

The faculty supervisor will:

1. Counsel with prospective practicum students regarding placement, interests, opportunities, and concerns.
2. Act as a liaison between the student and site when any problems or concerns arise.
3. Counsel with practicum students regarding placement following experience.
4. Read and grade final papers.
5. Assign final practicum grade

The agency supervisor will:

1. Orient students to the following:
 - a. goals of the agency
 - b. agency staff
 - c. services offered
 - d. facilities and other resources of the agency
 - e. opportunities which the student can assist in during his/her experiences
2. Inform the student of all policies and regulations he/she must abide by during his/her involvement at the agency.
3. Convey information from 1 and 2 above to the university supervisor as well as the student.
4. If mutually beneficial, assign the student a special project. This project should be one in which the student will have major responsibility for the planning, promotion, conducting, and evaluating tasks. (Note: This is not a mandatory requirement).
5. Contact the faculty supervisor with any concerns on a timely basis
6. Maintain (or ensure the student is maintaining) a record of the number of clock hours the student spends at the agency
7. Provide the student with constructive criticism, encouragement, and/or praise as needed.
8. Submit attached evaluation form to the designated university supervisor at the end of the student's experience. (Please review this form with the student prior to submitting).

4. Basic Instructional Plan and Methods Utilized

- *"Hands-On" experiential involvement
- *Classroom orientation sessions with university supervisor
- *Individual conferences with university supervisor
- *When feasible students will be included in in-service programs within their practicum agency.

5. Course Requirements & Means of Evaluation

The agency supervisor's written and verbal evaluation of the student will significantly impact one's practicum course grade. The faculty advisor will also consider the quality of the student's written report as well as other indicators that relate to the level of commitment and resourcefulness demonstrated by the student in terms of his/her involvement and special project(s). Students should submit their work via D2L dropbox.

6. Textbook(s) or alternatives

Due to the varied nature of this class, there will be no on textbook. Students will be encouraged to utilize their programming textbooks and agency resources for the program planning exercises in which they become involved.

Students Name _____

Practicum supervisor's signature and contact details (email, phone, address)

1. Please list the approximate beginning and ending dates of this student's affiliation with your agency

2. Can you verify this student completed the required 100 hours within your agency?
____ yes ____ no
3. Please comment on this student's promptness, dependability, attendance and level of professionalism.

4. Please comment on the level of initiative taken by the student. Do you believe he/she has the potential to be a strong leader or is he/she more likely to be a follower?

5. Please comment on one or two things this student did best.

6. Please comment on one or two areas this student could improve prior to entering the field.

7. Based upon your observation of this student at his/her current level of functioning would you, or would you encourage a colleague to hire this student for a part-time recreation related job? Why or why not?

8. If you were to assign a grade to this student for his/her practicum performance, what would that grade be?

Thank you! If you have any suggestions for improvement in WSU's practicum process please feel free to add those comments below.