

K595: Practicum in Special Education

Instructors:

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Course description and requirements:

K595: Practicum in Special Education is a 3-credit hour “capstone” experience in which you demonstrate your ability to integrate and adapt the concepts and practices covered in the certification coursework to real life teaching situations with students receiving special education services. The course is required for a teaching license in any area of special education and for a degree that has a concentration in special education. Unless otherwise advised, you should arrange to take a practicum at the end of your program of study, after you have completed all or most of the courses in the special education concentration.

If you are working in a teaching position, the practicum is intended to enhance your experience, instructional skill and teaching effectiveness in specific school situations. Since the practicum is a performance-based course and you will have to demonstrate your competence in teaching students with disabilities, you should design the experience to meet your particular professional development needs. The practicum is structured around one or more field-based projects that you propose to a university instructor. These projects must go beyond your regular teaching duties and extend your professional expertise. .

Before enrolling in the practicum, you must propose a major school-change project. Examples might include ideas similar to the following: developing a comprehensive transition curriculum, devising a school-wide student support service, establishing an instructional program link with home and community settings, or other relevant proposals that meet both the project aims and your personal development needs. Again, the idea is for you to integrate the concepts and methods you learned throughout the program and apply them to your circumstances. The proposal you develop should include the following sections:

1. Goal and rationale stating how the project relates to your professional development and what you will accomplish in terms of improving the circumstances in which you teach. Here you would describe the specific problems or issues your project will address in your school situation and indicate how addressing these problems will benefit your professional development and the students you teach.

2. List of steps for carrying out the project. This section should describe the process or sequence of activities you will go through to attain the project goal. You should outline the process you will go through to address the problems or issues described above in your goal and rationale statement, and indicate what resources and individuals you will use in your activities.
3. Timeline showing dates on which you plan to complete each of the project activities and the overall project.
4. Evaluation plan for determining whether you have attained the goal you described for the project, and whether your activities were effective in achieving the goal. You should describe the evaluation procedures you will use and how you plan to obtain and summarize the information.

Registering for K595: Practicum in Special Education

You have to receive authorization from a faculty instructor before you can register for K595. In most cases you will not receive authorization until you have submitted your proposal and received at least tentative approval for the project.