Human Ecology Practicum Program

Overview
2020
# Community Partners
(Winter 2020)

- Action for Healthy Communities, Healthy Active Community Kids
- Alberta Home Visitation Network Association (AHVNA)
- Alzheimer Society of Alberta & Northwest Territories
- APPLE Schools
- ATCO Blue Flame Kitchen
- Communities United, United Way
- Davey Textile Solutions
- Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society
- Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, Schools Team
- Edmonton Police Service, Strategy & Engagement Branch
- Edmonton Social Planning Council
- Fresh Routes Mobile Grocery Store
- Goodwill Industries of Alberta, Sustainability and Innovation
- gravitypope
- Heart and Stroke Foundation, Edmonton
- iHuman Youth Society
- NSTEP Edmonton
- SAFFRON Centre
- Service Alberta:
  - Strategic Policy, Education & Innovation Branch
  - Utilities Consumer Advocate
- The Family Centre, Success Coach Program
Practicum Goals

- Provides a practical learning experience that helps students:
  - apply and further develop their knowledge and skills,
  - explore their field of practice, and
  - transition with confidence into professional work.

- Fosters a mutually beneficial link between the students, community, and university.
Exchange

Students:
- Quality work
- Fresh ideas
- Energy & enthusiasm

Placement Site:
- Meaningful work
- Networking
- Guidance & mentoring

Guidebook Pages 7 - 8
Requirements

- Supervised by a professional
- 200 hours, non-paid
  - Winter term
    - 16 hrs/week for 13 weeks
  - Spring term
    - Full time for 5-6 weeks
- Independent project
  - Part of the 200 hours
- Site visit
- Weekly seminar (online)
  - 2 hours in addition to site hours
- Final Reflections

Guidebook Pages 9 - 15
Independent Project

Examples:

- **Programming**
  - Needs assessment, planning & development, implementation & facilitation, evaluation

- **Public Relations & Marketing**
  - Advertisements, newsletters, press releases, special events, social media

- **Writing**
  - Educational materials, position papers, policy briefs, fact sheets, articles, training/orientation manuals

- **Client/Customer Service**
  - Client intake, case management, consultations (e.g., wardrobe)

- **Research**
  - Market research, environment scans, policy analysis, trend forecasts, sales analysis, artefact documentation

- **Design & Product Development**
  - Draft patterns, create samples, construct garments/costumes, textile testing, artefact storage solutions, space planning & materials selection

- **Visual Communications**
  - Merchandising displays, exhibits, inspiration/story boards, poster boards, PowerPoint presentations, videos

Guidebook Page 12
Placement-Site Responsibilities

• Provide workspace
• Introduce student to site and co-workers
• Provide meaningful work
• Guide and mentor student:
  • regular meetings
  • review learning goals
  • provide feedback
• Attend on-site visit
• Evaluate student performance:
  • midterm and final

• Provide a safe, positive, and respectful workplace
Student Responsibilities

• Contribute positively to the placement site through responsible, dependable, competent, and ethical work
• Set and update Learning Goals
• Maintain weekly log
  • And, participate in Discussion Forums with peer groups
• Complete 200 hours, including independent project
• Arrange and host site visit
• Final Reflections
University Responsibilities

- Arrange placements
- Conduct orientation meeting
- Maintain on-going contact with participants through:
  - phone calls, emails
  - online seminar
- Site visits
- Evaluate Final Reflections
- Ensure all requirements are met
- Arrange for liability insurance coverage for students
Evaluation

• Credit / No Credit

• Midterm & Final evaluations - by field supervisor
  • Forms on pages 19-26
  • Five main criteria:
    • quality of work
    • work habits
    • knowledge & skills
    • relations with others
    • goal setting and achievement

• To pass, students complete:
  • 200 hours of fieldwork
    • independent project
  • seminar participation
  • Final Reflections
  • evaluations of site

Guidebook Pages 17-18
Ethics

- Confidentiality
- Recognition of qualifications & limitations
- Identification as practicum student
- Accurate & reliable work
- No conflicts of interest
- No sexual misconduct or harassment
- Self-awareness & monitoring
- Ethical guidelines specific to the placement site
Liability Coverage & Expenses

• Liability
  • Sites — Expected to provide a safe work environment and to have liability insurance to cover their own employees.
  • University —
    • Provides liability coverage to practicum students.
    • Student Affiliation Agreement.

• Expenses
  • Reimbursement for direct expenses incurred while carrying out practicum work (travel costs, materials costs, etc.).
    • Discuss costs and reimbursement arrangements in advance.

• Tokens of thanks
  • Practicum is non-paid.
  • Small tokens of thanks/honorariums are acceptable.
Questions? Concerns?

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