

Practicum # 1: EDUC 4003

An Introduction to Teaching and Learning

During this first practicum course it is important for the pre-service teacher to gain a broad understanding of what takes place in schools. Additionally, introducing the pre-service teacher, in a gradual manner, to the art of teaching is preferred. The following are some suggestions regarding how this introduction *might* be structured. Each school has individual characteristics that determine what is possible. Typically, students should be teaching at 25% of the teacher's responsibilities at some point during this practicum.

- Week 1:
1. Two or three days of initial classroom observation.
 2. Work within the classroom assisting the teacher.
 3. Accompany the associate teacher when they are doing their assigned school duties.
 4. Possibly observe teachers in other subject areas/grade levels.
- Week 2:
1. Team teach with the classroom teacher.
 2. Continue to work assisting the teacher.
 3. Accompany the associate teacher when they are doing their assigned school duties.
 4. Provide opportunities for the student teacher to experience the various elements which comprise the school. This might include spending some time working in the library or main office. However, most of the time is spent with the associate teacher.
- Weeks 3-5:
1. Team teach with the classroom teacher.
 2. Plan and implement small and whole group lessons.
 3. Help in other areas of the school if requested to do so.

The aim of Practicum #1: EDUC 4003, the *first* practicum, is to provide opportunities for pre-service teachers to:

1. Observe and offer support for the first days of school.
2. Support an experienced teacher.
3. Reflect on the elements of professional practice.
4. Reflect and professionally discuss weekly observations in the classroom and school.
5. Collect varied and important artifacts necessary to school culture.
6. Gradually assume increasing levels of responsibility for assisting in the classroom.