

The aims Practicum #4: EDUC 4933

Exploring and Extending Learning to Teach

Regular classroom teaching: Throughout Practicum #4, pre-service teachers should take part of the Associate teacher's regular load for a period of time, or for certain parts of the day for the entire practicum. **Pre-service teachers in Practicum #4 are expected to demonstrate their ability and competence as professional educators by taking on the full teaching responsibilities (100%) for at least a three-week period within the five-week block of practicum.**

Some of our students at this stage of their practice have already been exposed to many of the elements that comprise the life of a school, but others may not have had such experiences. For the latter group, it would be helpful if these pre-service teachers had opportunities to work in the library, help in the main office, observe, and talk with specialist teachers within the school, and so forth.

It is particularly important for the pre-service teachers to have time to talk to and learn from the learning resource/support teachers within their school. We encourage schools to offer some time for the student teachers to experience the varied ways learning support is approached in their school.

It is also important to allow students to have some preparation time for lesson/unit planning within the school day.

The aims of Practicum #3 are to provide opportunities for pre-service teachers to:

1. Work with an experienced teacher.
2. Work in a wide variety of educational settings within their host schools.
3. Develop ways to foster and maintain positive teacher/student relationships.
4. Continue to develop and refine teaching practices and classroom management techniques.
5. Become self-reliant, autonomous educators within the limits directed by schools, Regional Centres of Education and Department of Education regulations.
6. Continue to develop professional insights and understandings.
7. Demonstrate a continuous and evident sense of responsibility to the associate teacher, students, and members of the school community.

Learning support teaching: Pre-service teachers might work closely with a resource/learning support teacher. Alternatives might be to work as a tutor with a few individuals or to serve as a support person within a regular classroom.

For all practicum placements, we encourage the pre-service teacher to continue to have the opportunity to observe the associate teacher as she/he articulates and demonstrates the understandings of their teaching practice.