

Mineral Area College

Practicum Classroom Experiences: ECE2000

Fall 2009

**Instructor: Patricia Fields
Department Chair: Patricia Fields
Career and Technical Division:
Dean G. Kennon**

COURSE TITLE: Practicum Classroom Experiences

COURSE NUMBER: ECE 2000

INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Patricia Fields

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Office Hours: Monday through Friday-3:00-4:00pm

Phone: 518-2128

Email: pfields@mineralarea.edu

Note: On-line students should email any questions or concerns to the instructor by noon Monday through Friday. The instructor will make every attempt to respond within a 24 hour period.

Office Location: Office # 26

Phone: 518-2128

Email: pfields@mineralarea.edu

Technical Support for on-line:

Web-Ct Help Desk: 1-866-522-1472

Hours: Monday through Thursday 8am to 4pm and Friday 8am to 4pm.

I. Course Description:

The focus of Practicum Classroom Experiences is to reinforce learned concepts in Introduction to Early Childhood Education working with children ages birth to eight years. The student will apply the learned concepts through the DAP age group. The creative aspect of learning is encouraged as a part of daily planning/scheduling. The student will complete four hours of practicum experiences each week in an arranged early care and education practicum site to apply knowledge learned from a (weekly) fifty-minute lecture. The teaching techniques and strategies will be explored and implemented to assist the student in providing DAP experiences. The use of children's portfolios will be examined as

a method to assess the development of the child. Appropriate use of observation, record keeping techniques, and collaboration with the early care and education teachers will be used to provide the student with experience in assessing the child's development.. The professional work ethics of the student are stressed in working with parents, staff members, teachers throughout the practicum experiences. The assigned artifacts will reflect the core competencies of the course.

Note: It is recommended to take this course the semester before qualifications have been met for graduation.

Prerequisite requirement:

The student is required to have completed EDU1300-Child Development and ECE1000-Intro to Early Childhood Education before enrolling in this course. All developmental domain areas are used in the classroom practicum experiences during the planning and implementation of Developmentally Appropriate Practice activities.

II. Course Requirements:

The student will be required to complete four hours a week of practicum experience/observation at an accredited/preapproved early care and education site, and one fifty minute scheduled lecture per week.

Mineral Area College is committed to excellence in the teacher education and child development programs, and it has implemented criminal background checks for all students enrolled in education or child development classes that require any field work or practicum observation experiences with children. Students must complete the background check prior to conducting field work or practicum/observations. Failure to have the criminal background check completed can result in the student's ability to participate in the Mineral Area College's EDU or ECE field experiences required for successful completion of EDU and ECE courses.

A Criminal Background Check is required before the student can be approved to work with children. The **REQUIRED** application and a copy of your Social Security card (front and back) are due to the instructor the first two weeks of the semester.

Note: If the report has been done within the past two years, it will not have to be repeated. However, a copy must be scanned or emailed or faxed to the instructor the first week of classes.

The student will begin a collection of their work (artifacts) completed throughout the child development studies leading up to the Associate of Applied Science in Child Development. The artifacts will be assigned throughout the semester as a part of the scheduled assignments. The student will be required to take a one-hour course prior to graduation titled, "Portfolio Artifacts". The student will need to save all artifacts collected throughout their child development studies for the one-hour capstone course.

The student will maintain a journal of teaching experiences, techniques, and strategies as they conduct the practicum experience. Remember to complete journal writings as they are assigned. Even though the journal is not due until the end of the semester, it will be more meaningful if the student completes the observation and journal writings as they are

assigned. YOU MUST HAVE THE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK TURNED IN AND A SITE APPROVAL BY THE INSTRUCTOR BEFORE COMPLETING ANY OBSERVATIONS.

TO COMPLETE REQUIRED practicum and observations, it is imperative that the student always respect the daily schedule of the child care setting and planned activities taking place in the child care setting/classroom. It is up to the student to make arrangements with the program director and lead classroom teacher to complete practicum classroom experiences.

Note: The student will contract experiences with the director for completion of practicum.

III. Text Requirements

Creating Effective Learning Environments. Wellhausen
Creative Resources for Early Childhood Classrooms. Herr
Write it Down , Kolaski

Note: The student may have already purchased the Write It Down journal text and used it in previous classes. It is used throughout the Child Development courses in the AAS Child Development degree as a means to journal observation experiences in early care and education programs.

Other Materials:

- 1) Resource Notebook (2” binder)**
- 2) Prop Boxes**
- 3) Materials for Activities**
- 4) Camera**

IV. Course Objectives:

- 1) The student will apply learned knowledge of developmentally appropriate practice (DAP) to plan and implement activities and lesson plans.**
- 2) The student will reinforce the use and importance of DAP interaction between the child, teacher, and its affect on the learning environment.**
- 4) The student will assess the developing child’s developmental needs in the learning environment.**
- 5) The student will identify developmental processes in active learning and play activities.**

- 6) The student will create an awareness of the responsibility of the teacher to modify the environment and activity to meet individual needs of the child.
- 7) The student will explore teaching techniques and strategies to implement developmentally appropriate activities in the learning environment.
- 8) The student will identify the role of observation in the classroom to assess the effectiveness of the learning environment.

V. Learning Experiences

Practicum Experiences with approved early care and education sites

Use of portfolios to assess child's development and progress

Hands-on Learning Activities

Cooperative Learning – Discussion of Experiences

Collaborative relationships with experienced preschool teachers

VII. Student Evaluation

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| 1) Practicum Experience: 14 @ 50 pts. | 700 pts. |
| 2) Kansas/Mo. Artifacts Notebook | 50 pts. |
| 3) Bulletin Board: to follow the thematic unit on site | 50 pts. |
| 4) Prop Box | 50 pts. |
| 5) Write it Down Journal | 50 pts. |
| 6) On-Campus Final | 100 pts |

Total Points Possible 1000 pts.

Final Grading Scale

92-100% = A

82-91% = B

72-81% = C

62-71% = D

VIII. Special Policies

A. Attendance

The instructor follows the Mineral Area College established attendance policy. The student is required to attend one-hundred and fifty minutes of calls per week for fifteen weeks (Fall and Spring Semesters-eight weeks in the summer).

B. Special Needs: Please notify instructor of any modifications or adaptations to classroom instructional materials or personal health needs that may restrict your learning. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

C. Academic Honesty: Students who engage in dishonest acts such as plagiarism or other forms of cheating in meeting the requirements of this course will be notified by the instructor that they are receiving a “0” for the assignment and/or an “F” for the course. Students who wish to appeal the decision of the instructor on a matter of dishonesty may do so under the Procedural Policy for Disciplinary Action. (Under the policy, the student is subject to suspension from college for acts of dishonesty.)

Note: Plagiarizing also applies to completing course assignments.

I.e. The student is to summarize internet articles and cite the resource where the information was found. The student should always cite the text, web site addresses, etc. on EACH WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT. Failure to do so will result in a reduction of points.

The instructor reserves the right to schedule an on-campus meeting in order to determine the authenticity of the student's work. Students who wish to appeal the decision of the instructor on a matter of dishonesty may do so under the "Procedural Policy for Disciplinary Action". (Under that policy, the student is subject to the suspension from college for acts of dishonesty.)

VII. Completing On-line Assignments

To access the web course:

- 1. The course is managed through Web-Ct: www.gatewayccc.org**
- 2. The student should be able to log into the web-ct course the Saturday before classes begin on campus. If the student enrolls AFTER the first Monday of classes, please email the instructor at www.pfields@mineralarea.edu so the process can be started.**

3. After logging into the web-ct course at the above web address, the student will enter the user name as follows: first initial of the first name and last name (all in lower case). I.e. pfields
4. The password is the same as the user name.
5. Once you are in the course you will have the option to change the password.
 - If for some reason this does not work, please call the web-ct Help Desk at (866) 522-1472. You may need to be assigned a different user name and password.
6. You will “click” on the course name.
7. This will bring you to the Home Page.
8. The student is responsible to read ALL ICONS on the Home Page to gain a better understanding of how the course works.
9. There are five icons the student will use each week to complete assigned work: Starting the Course; Calendar; Weekly Assignments; Discussion Board; and Course Information.

Welcome to Practicum Classroom Experiences. The course is intended to provide the student with hands-on-learning experience in the early care and education classroom. You will have a list of developmentally appropriate practice programs to choose from the first week of classes. There is a list of preapproved programs on the home page icon, “Approved Practicum and Observation Sites”. The classroom provider/teacher will apply the knowledge learned in ECE1000-Introduction to Early Childhood Education to plan for a developmentally appropriate environment/program for children 3 to five years.

Course Content and Structure

Each week the assignment will include a discussion topic that will be the primary objective or study of the chapter.

The student will read the chapter to gain a better understanding of the assigned discussion topic. The student will post the discussion on the “Discussion Board”. The discussion board is used as a “virtual” classroom discussion group.

The student will be required to respond to at least one other student’s posted topic. This is an opportunity to engage in a professional, meaningful response and to build professional relationships with others in the group. As the students and instructor engage in discussion concerning the assigned topic each week, it provides an opportunity to discuss and explore both the chapter’s reading and a broader professional perspective of the classmates and assigned chapter materials. The student will have the opportunity to discuss and apply the learning with others in the class. This also provides an opportunity for the instructor to enhance the students’ understanding of course materials.

In addition to the discussion topic, the student will have “Featured Weekly Assignments” to complete. The assignments will vary in nature, but they are intended for application and use in the early care and education setting. Some of the weekly assignments lead up to the compilation of the semester project (three handbooks).

A semester project is used to evaluate the student’s understanding and application of planning a DAP classroom environment. For more information on the semester project, see the home page icon, “Semester Project”.

Note: It is strongly recommended that the student read the chapter and engage in discussion before attempting the weekly assignment.

Completing Coursework for Credit

- 1. There is a Featured Weekly Assignment based on the chapter's reading each week (1 through 15). The assignment will be a practicum or observation assignment based on the chapter's reading.**
 - a. The student will be required to set up their practicum site by the second week of class.**
 - b. The student will contact the instructor with the program name and contact information (Program and Director's name, telephone number, and location).**
 - c. The student will be required to save all signed information such as weekly lessons and be presented the day of on-campus finals. Failure to do so will result in the student not passing the class.**
 - d. The student will email the weekly written work to the instructor each week.**
- 2. There is an assigned discussion and response to another student based on the chapter's reading each week (1 through 14).**
 - a. The discussions should focus on the assigned topic for the week and your experiences in the field as you complete your practicum experiences.**
- 3. Semester Project: The student will be required to collect lesson plans and other assigned artifacts throughout the semester. They are to be presented in a professional looking format that could be used in an interview to show a potential employer what you have learned and how you intend to implement that knowledge.**
- 4. On-campus Final: The date for the final is posted on the Home Page icon, "Calendar" the first two weeks of class. The student must attend the final or receive an "F" for the course.**

Performance and Participation

The student must remember this is a web class. The student is required to maintain weekly contact with the instructor through the Private Mail system within the web-ct course. If for some reason the student cannot access the web address, the student is to email the instructor at www.pfields@mineralarea.edu or (573) 518-2128. Failure to do so may result in the student being dropped from the course. This also includes communication from the student concerning technical or personal reasons for the assignment to be late. The communication must be received by the instructor the same week the assignment is due.

Keys for Success

The instructor values the importance of gaining knowledge in the developing child, and application of the development in the child's environment. Adults working with children can use this knowledge in planning a developmentally appropriate environment. The following provides an outline for the students' evaluation by the instructor and learning of the course materials.

- 1. Read chapter materials before attempting to post the weekly discussion and response and before completing the featured weekly assignment.**

- 2. Read the weekly assignments in its entirety. If you have any questions or concerns about the assignment, email the instructor no later than Thursday to assure you receive help before the assignment is due on Saturday.**
- 3. Refer to calendar on Home Page for due dates of assignments. The instructor will not accept late work. The student will receive a “0” for the assignment regardless of why the assignment was late.**
- 4. Email the instructor if you are having difficulties in completing the scheduled work as soon as possible (the same week the assignment is due).**

NOTE: On-line courses require the student to be an independent learner who is well-disciplined in completing work within a seven day period. The comprehension of both materials and assignments are an important part of taking on-line courses. Please let the instructor know within the first two weeks if you are having difficulty. The instructor can meet with the student during scheduled office hours or arrangements can be made to meet at other times that are agreeable to both parties.