

Practicum - Course Category Guidance

Definition: Introductory practice, knowledge, and skills in pragmatic situations under close supervision.

Additional Guidance

- This guidance applies only to the undergraduate course tagging efforts. It does not apply to graduate or professional course practicums and curriculum sequencing.
- For practicums where students are dual enrolled in a practicum course for their time on site as well as in a seminar, only the course for their time on site will be tagged to avoid data duplication.
- Practicums may or may not be required for licensure; those that are required for licensure should meet their state and accrediting body standards first and foremost.
- In general, the instructor is encouraged to address an experiential education cycle in their practicum course or in a partnering seminar, including framing the experience, the application itself, reflection on the experience, and synthesis of student learning from application and course content.
- **Pragmatic situations** must involve real-world contexts where students are in the field or collaborating with professionals from the field, connecting the practice, knowledge, or skills with academic content from the classroom. Simply discussing or analyzing case studies, completing a simulation in class, or going on a field trip is not enough for a practicum designation.
- **Supervision**, which can include direction, support, and/or feedback, is provided both by an instructor as well as a collaborating partner but not necessarily at the same time. These partners may be site supervisors hosting students 1:1 at their sites, public clients, or non-profit or corporate partners who have requested that students produce work (examples: interviews, oral histories, reviews, analysis, recommendations, media content, etc.)
- While many practicums will be at the 2000 or 3000 course level, some will be at the 4000-level due to the curriculum structure, standards, and pedagogy of specific fields. Follow your own department or college's course numbering policies.

Examples include:

- Students observing and participating in teaching exercises in a K-12 classroom with close collaboration with the partnering teacher
- Students helping community members with their taxes overseen by their faculty
- A group of students designing and delivering group health & wellness education to the public overseen by their faculty
- A group of students consulting for a client, receiving real problems or situations to work on and authentic feedback from the clients on their work
- Students applying knowledge and skills to a generalist practice at a social welfare agency under direct supervision by their licensed site supervisor

Questions? Angi Mckie, Executive Director, Pomerantz Career Center