

Instructor: Marie Rieck
Course: Ed 497⁰² ECE Practicum
Credit/hours 3 credits/45 hours

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RATIONALE:

The practicum phase of the student's educational experience is the culmination of methods classes, philosophy and other course work. In your practicum you will be working a minimum of 5 days a week, 4 hours a day for an academic year in an early childhood setting. You will be observed on a regular basis by a university supervisor, who, with your cooperating teacher and/or director will support and guide this experience. The required seminar will serve to tie the practicum experiences to the methods, theories and philosophy of the courses, the mission of the education department and the mission of Chaminade University.

OBJECTIVES:

The student will:

1. Demonstrate understanding and integration of Montessori methodology and philosophy as defined in the program of study. (MACTE competency #1,2,3,5)
2. Demonstrate integration of the necessary skills and knowledge to successfully begin and direct a developmentally appropriate program for 2.5 to 6 year olds according to both Montessori philosophy and current best practice. (MACTE competency # 1,2,3,4,5,6,7)
3. Express and nurture the inter-relationship of the school home and the family home. (MACTE competency # 1.2, 6)
4. Describe the history of early childhood education in the United States and the importance of the Montessori movement in that history to other staff and parents. (MACTE competency # 2)
5. Describe educational "jargon" terms and concepts in terms parents and members of the community can understand. (MACTE competency #1.1, 4.4, 4.5, 5.3, 6.1,6.2, 6.3)
6. Use current research in the field of early childhood education. (MACTE competency # 7.1, 4, 5, 1, 3)
7. Be able to accurately observe and assess children and their behavior and to provide appropriate learning materials based on those observations (MACTE competency # 3.1, 3.2, 3.7, 4.1,4.2,4.3,4.4,4.5,5.1,5.2,5.3)

METHODS:

discussions	readings	final exam
observation	practice	

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Maintain a weekly journal including the following:
 - five-minute daily observations;
 - reflections about your readings;
 - your experiences this year in the practicum; and
 - ideas for future reference.
2. Complete three observations as described in your student teaching handbook.
3. Do a case study and begin a portfolio documenting the progress of a child you will "follow" during the entire year. Completed portfolio will be due at the last seminar. Specifics regarding the portfolio will be given to you at the first class session.
4. Meet weekly with cooperating teacher as per Student Teacher Handbook. Document meetings using forms provided. Use assignments from classes, readings, benchmarks, and leave competencies to form the basis for your discussions.
5. Complete 60 hours of documented practice
6. Complete $\frac{1}{2}$ the quotes as described in your Student Teacher Handbook
7. Complete all readings as assigned

EVALUATION:

1. Attendance and Participation: site	15 points
2. Observations	15 points
3. Journal (Including weekly Meetings)	15 points
4. Case Study and Portfolio	10 points
5. Practice hours	15 points
6. Quotes	10 points
7. Reflections on readings	10 points
8. Posner Text Exercises	10 points
Total:	100 points

Required Readings

The Montessori Controversy
Field Experience: A Guide to Reflective Teaching

Chattin-McNicnols
Posner

The schedule for the practicum is dependant on the student teaching site and varies accordingly. All students must student teach for an academic year, beginning in late August or early September, and ending on May 1st of the next year.

Seminar Schedule and rubric for all assignments is found in the Seminar syllabus. These two classes must be taken concurrently.

Syllabus may be changed to meet the needs of the student.