

PLANNING FOR PRACTICA 2009-2010

Because practica are centered in schools in the community rather than on campus, it's important to include travel time in your schedule when taking a practicum. As long as you don't register for a class that is scheduled immediately before or immediately following your practicum, you'll have time. For example, if your practicum is from 9:00-1:00 on Monday and Wednesdays, don't register for an 8:00 class or a 1:00 class on those days.

SPED 440 School Practicum (4cr) Thursdays (take with SPED 420 and SPED 460)

Meets 1 day a week (Thursday) for 6+ hours. You'll be at a school from approximately 8:30 to 3:30 (a 4:00 class on campus is possible but not recommended; an 8 am class won't work). Write your grade level preference on the "Permission to Register" form which your advisor signs. There will be an on campus orientation meeting the first Thursday of the quarter. Check at the Special Ed. office for where and when.

SPED 390 Special Education Practicum (3cr) (Take SPED 360 before or concurrently)

Meets one day per week on campus: You will also need to schedule 1.5 hours two days a week or 1 hour 3 days a week (total of 3 hours per week) during school hours for visiting a special education program. [During winter and spring quarters you will need to schedule 4 hours a week in the schools because of holidays and school breaks.] Don't forget travel time as well. At the first class meeting you will be assigned to one of the four Bellingham middle schools. You will then attend a one hour orientation at that school.

SPED 480 Special Education Practicum II: Literacy I (3cr) (Take with Sped 483)

Students will be in schools teaching Reading Mastery 4 days a week (MTWR) at the same time each day for approximately one hour, i.e., 9:00 to 10:00 or 10:00 to 11:00 or 11:00 to 12:00. Orientation meetings will be held during the first 2 weeks of classes each quarter. The first meeting day is usually the first day after the 483 class meets for the first time. Remember not to register for a class scheduled the hour immediately before or immediately following your practicum hour to allow for preparation and travel time. Fridays should also be kept open during the nominated time to allow for makeup days due to illness.

SPED 481 Special Education Practicum III: Literacy 2 (3cr) ***and***

SPED 482 Special Education Practicum IV: Math (3cr) (take both with SPED 484, 485, 486)

Even though they are listed separately in the timetable, you will take these practica together. Register for both Monday/Wednesday sections or both Tuesday/Thursday sections. You will be at a school from ABOUT 8:30-12:30 (a 2:00 class on campus is possible). An orientation meeting will be held during the first week of classes. You will be notified by e-mail regarding the time and the place for the meeting. Please purchase the practicum handbook at the bookstore and read the section on professionalism prior to the orientation meeting.