

INTRODUCTION

This Manual is to serve as a guide for establishing and carrying out the practicum experience. The practicum student is an emerging professional who in the future must guide the course of his/her own career. Consequently, a major portion of the responsibility for the success of the experience rests with the student and the supervising agency.

The senior practicum provides a meaningful full-time work/learning experience of 40 hours per week for 12 weeks (480 clock hours). It is the culmination of course work, previous fieldwork experiences, and accumulated knowledge. This is the opportunity for the student to apply professional knowledge and expertise in the field under the direction and supervision of a qualified practitioner. The student should receive varied practicum experiences ranging from leadership to program development, to exposure to higher level supervisory responsibilities. The variety and intensity of experiences should allow the student to assess knowledge and skills in relation to career goals. The student would be challenged in such a manner that both strengths and weaknesses are evident. Such experiences can only be assured through careful planning by the student and the agency supervisor.

This practicum course offers twelve (12) credit hours to students in the Department of Recreation and Park Administration. An twelve (12) credit hour practicum course should contain a great deal of value and benefit to the student. Consequently, a strong set of purposes has been developed for the Practicum course.

Purpose of the Practicum

The primary purpose of the Practicum is to provide a work-study-learning program to further the professional growth of students. Students are to select agencies appropriate to their

curriculum option, personal needs, and career goals.

Agencies electing to accept practicum students have an obligation to maintain their reputation for professional services, and cannot tolerate inefficiency, irresponsibility or insubordination by student trainees. When accepting an agency for the practicum experience, the student accepts the standards, rules, and regulations of that agency, as well as the University and Department. Maximum benefits of the Practicum experience will depend largely upon the student's realization of responsibilities.