

THE ROLE OF PRACTICUMS IN TARPS

During the first years at Shepherd, candidates take foundational Professional Studies courses that provide them with experiences examining the roles and responsibilities of teachers (EDUC 150/MUSC 100), working with diverse learners in a tutoring-type setting (EDUC 200), and establishing foundational knowledge critical to future pedagogy depending on specialization area (EDUC 333, 360, 361, ARED 180 and PHED 401).

Teacher candidates then embark upon a sequence of courses linked to practicums that focus on the Action-Reflection-Action Cycle. All teacher candidates take EDUC 320 Social and Psychological Conditions of Learning. The Early Education, Elementary, and Secondary experiences then diverge to accommodate specific programmatic needs while maintaining the integrity of the Action Reflection-Action Cycle. While engaged in these practicum-linked courses, they also take program specific courses that focus on increasing specialty area knowledge as it relates to teaching, curriculum development, technology and meeting the needs of diverse learners.

The concluding practicum experience is a fourteen-week full-time student teaching experience. Depending on specialty area and potential added areas of endorsement, student teaching generally takes place in two 7-week experiences.

STUDENT PRACTICUM PROFILE

At the completion of the practicum experiences, including Student Teaching, a student should have had at least two distinct experiences coded E, M, or EM, with at least one of those coded E or M. See the Practicum Manual for an explanation of the coding system and how schools are coded.

RESTRICTIONS ON PRACTICUM PLACEMENT

In order to avoid unnecessary problems, the student should not request, nor be placed in, a school that the student has previously attended, a school in which the student has family members on staff or in attendance, or a school in which the student is currently employed. No student will be allowed to student teach in a district where a relative is employed by the school board or who is a member of the school board.

See Practicum Manual for Practicum Specific Policies, Procedures, and Expectations available on the Department of Education's webpage.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Teacher Candidates are required to abide by the Shepherd University Code of Conduct for Teacher Candidates in the Field. The Shepherd University Code of Conduct is available on the Department of Education's web page.