



Northern Lights
College

Early Childhood Education and Care Diploma Program Student Practicum Planning Guide

Contents

Indigenous Acknowledgement	3
Contact Information	4
Introduction	5
Practicum Overview	5
Special Considerations	5
School Age / Out of School Care Programs	5
Conflict of Interest	5
Mentor Remuneration	6
Spring / Summer Condensed Semesters	6
Workplace Practicum	6
Practicum Responsibilities – Student, Site Mentor, NLC Instructor	7
Student	7
Practicum Mentor	7
The Practicum Instructor	8
Practicum Courses at a Glance	8
Practicum 1 - ECED 109A	8
Practicum 2 - ECED 110	8
Credit hours: 3	8
Practicum 3 - ECED 111	8
Practicum 4 and/or 5 ECED 208 and or 210	9
Practicum Planning Steps	9

Indigenous Acknowledgement

Northern Lights College expresses gratitude to the First Nations people of the Cree, Dane-zaa, Dene, Denek'éh, Dunne-za, Iroquois, Kaska, Sauteaux, Tsaa? Ché Ne Dane, Tse'khene, Tahltan, and Tlingit for sharing their territory with us.

We acknowledge the enduring presence of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people and as guests we live, we work, and we learn on their beautiful land.

Together we are able to create hope and opportunity for all the people of our college region through post-secondary educational opportunities.

Contact Information

ECEC Practicum Advisor	ECECPRACTICAPLANNING@nlc.bc.ca
Program Co Chairs	Cindy Page / Sharon Strasdin Mail: NLC ECEC /EA Box 1000 Fort St John, BC V1J 6K1 Email: ece-ea-chair@nlc.bc.ca Phone: 1 855 258 0585
NLC ECEC Website	http://www.nlc.bc.ca/Admissions/EarlyChildhoodEducationandCareAdmissions.aspx (practicum section with forms located on the very bottom of the site page)
Northern Lights College website	http://nlc.bc.ca
ECEC /EA office	ECEC /EA office e mail ece-ea-office@nlc.bc.ca ECEC/EA office: 1- 866-463-6652- ext. 6234 ECEC/EA office fax: 1 - 250 -787 - 6222

Introduction

Welcome to Northern Lights College (NLC). This booklet will help you navigate your way through the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) practicum policies, procedures, guidelines and expectations

Practicum Overview

Our program includes five (5) practicum experiences, providing Early Childhood Educators (ECE) in training the opportunity for hands on practice needed to integrate knowledge, skills and abilities in the varied roles of the professional in the field.

Working with the site mentor, course peers, and college Instructor the student will

- Deepen their overall understanding of multiple perspectives and diverse abilities within their practicum sites and community.
- Develop their professional identity while gaining insight into the many roles and responsibly of an emerging student
- Develop the many skills, competencies and values to provide exceptional care and nurturing to young children

The BC Ministry of Children and Family Development **recommends** that students complete their practica in '**a variety of licensed child care facilities** - (group care settings 30 months to 6 years including preschool programs) or **Ministry of Education programs** - (Strong Start settings and Kindergarten) with a mentor that holds a 5-yr. licensed ECE, ITE, SNE or equivalent. (BC Mins CFD, 2014)

Infant and Toddler specific programs are reserved for students who are completing their ECED 208 practicum, therefore these programs will not be accepted for students completing their ECED 109A, ECED 110 or ECED 111.

Special Considerations

Practicum students may request a special consideration practicum placement. All proposed practica placements require approval. Please begin the conversation with the ECEC practicum advisor and or your course Instructor.

School Age / Out of School Care Programs

Currently, out of school Care programs (OSC) are not support for practicum placements.

Conflict of Interest

NLC acknowledges that in some communities or programs there may be conflicts of interest to resolve. Some examples may include:

- a family member as a mentor

- an employee mentoring a co-worker or employer
- doing practicum in a program where a participant's child attends
- doing practicum in an NLC Instructor program
- other situations that the student, employer and or college may see as conflicts to be resolved

We will work with the participant, program and community to find a professional solution that respects everyone.

Mentor Remuneration

NLC acknowledges the voluntary aspect of practicum mentors and sites. Mentorship work currently is not a paid or remunerated position.

Spring / Summer Condensed Semesters

Students completing practicum during Spring 1 or Spring 2 condensed semesters must be prepared to devote 20 - 30 hours in a practicum site over a 6-week time frame. Criminal Record Checks must be on file 2 weeks before the course start date.

Workplace Practicum

Northern Lights College supports the concept of workplace practicum to maintain program staffing and provide on site team professional development.

The following guidelines are in place to ensure all students meet the requirements set out by the Ministry and Registry.

- Any student completing a practicum in their workplace must begin the conversation with the practicum Advisor or practicum Instructor.
- Students must seek approval for workplace settings once after registering in each course.
- All workplace practicum students must complete at least one Professional Program Field Visit (PPFV) to another ECEC program/centre during **each** practicum course. This will ensure that all students are meeting the Ministry requirement of multiple perspectives and diverse experiences
- In larger-workplace settings it may be possible for students to switch rooms for the practicum time frame to encourage a variety of experiences and mentor
- If at any time the workplace setting is not working for the student or mentor, the student will have to look at completing a practicum in another ECE centre.

Practicum Responsibilities – Student, Site Mentor, NLC Instructor

Student

The student has the overall responsibility for his/ her own learning in the practicum. Specific responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Locating their own licensed site(s) who would be willing to support their practicum experience ** note ECED 109A, ECED 110 and ECED 111 are to begin their practicum experiences in a licensed early learning group setting (30 months to 6 years) with a minimum of 8 children enrolled
- Ensuring all required pre-requisites have been met
- Ensuring all required practicum documents are completed and submitted to the NLC Instructor
- Gaining confidence and experience in the teaching role in a supportive environment (i.e. with Practicum Mentor and experienced professionals available for consultation, collaboration, and assistance).
- Demonstrating proficiency of observation and teaching strategies in a variety of licensed early learning care settings.
- Demonstrating abilities to collaborate and communicate with other professionals and course peers
- Working effectively within the team and develop leadership abilities appropriate for role

Practicum Mentor

The Site Mentor will serve as a role model, facilitator, and consultant to supporting the student as they grow to become a competent, confident, and professional ECE. This person will have the most contact with the student and Instructor. The student reports to and receives feedback on the day-to-day practicum experiences from this person. Specific responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Holding an active, current five-year, BC ECEC registry certificate to practice, at a level equal to or above the student's practicum experience. Students in the first three practica must be supervised mentors who hold at least a 5-year ECE certificate from the BC ECE Registry (or equivalent). In the final two practicums, students must be supervised by mentors with equivalent BCECE Registry certificates.
- Confidence that the centre is functioning well and will provide the opportunity for the student to receive a positive experience and allow them to take on role's representative of their knowledge and experience.
- A willingness to share knowledge and resources with the student.
- Being active on the floor supervising the student within the same classroom during the hours the student is in practicum.
- Being able to take time for reflective practice discussions with the student to highlight

- progress and practica consideration with the student and Practicum Instructor.
- Completing a mid and/or final written feedback to document the students' progress.

The Practicum Instructor

Northern Lights Practicum Instructors provide guidance to students and mentors in facilitating the achievement of educational objectives through synthesis in practice. Specific responsibilities of the NLC Instructor in practicum are to:

- Guiding the student through the practicum experience.
- Facilitating communication between all parties involved.
- Encouraging the student's personal growth.
- Supporting the student through feedback on course objectives and practicum evaluations.
- Facilitating the peer seminar weekly gatherings to share professional learning stories

Practicum Courses at a Glance

Practicum 1 - ECED 109A

Credit hours: 3

ECED 109A focuses on developing and enhancing competent and professional practice in an early childhood setting. Emphasis is on developing competencies including observation skills and using developmentally appropriate practice to support children's early learning and development.

- 130 hours completed with 118 hours completed on the floor under supervision of a practicum Mentor in the practicum centre and 12 seminar/ Instructor contact hours

Practicum 2 - ECED 110

Credit hours: 3

ECED 110: This course provides opportunities for the student to build on previous skills and knowledge attained from Practicum 1 (ECED 109A). Students will focus on professional skills and competencies through direct hands on experience and involvement with young children in an early learning and care setting. Emphasis is on the practical experience, observing, planning, implementing and evaluating emergent curriculum experiences.

- 130 hours completed with 118 hours completed on the floor under supervision of a practicum Mentor in the practicum centre and 12 seminar/ Instructor contact hours

Practicum 3 - ECED 111

Credit hours: 3

ECED 111: This course builds on the competencies and practice from practicum I and II and

focuses on self-reflection and assessment and with the continuation of developing professional practice, (observing, planning, documenting) as an emerging ECE.

- 165 hours with 153 hours completed on the floor under supervision from the Practicum Mentor in the practicum centre and 12 seminar/ Instructor contact hours

Practicum 4 and/or 5 ECED 208 and or 210

ECED 210:

Credit hours: 3

Focuses more on enhancing knowledge, skills, and abilities in working in inclusive settings.

- 200 hours completed on the floor and 25 hours of seminar/Instructor contact time over the semester.

ECED 208

Credit hours: 3

ECED 208: Focuses more on enhancing knowledge, skills and abilities in working with infants and toddlers and their families.

- 200 hours completed on the floor and 25 hours of seminar/Instructor contact time over the semester.

Practicum Planning Steps

Ensure you have all the required pre requisites including a current Criminal Record Check (CRC) in place	Verify pre reqs at NLC ECEC courses list https://www.nlc.bc.ca/Programs/All-Programs-Alphabetical/Early-Childhood-Education-and-Care-Diploma Verify Criminal Record Check at records@nlc.bc.ca
Register for the specific practicum	Registration information at https://www.nlc.bc.ca/Registration
Read the quick facts on practicum and or ask specific questions to ECEC practicum advisor and or instructor	ECECpracticumplanning@nlc.bc.ca
Apply to (seek / find) an appropriate practicum site Share a copy of the Practicum Mentor Guide (found on our admissions page) with prospective practica sites in your area where you hope to do practicum time	Ensure mentor and practicum licenses are current and in good standing
Once the term begins, attend the first weekly seminar and submit the completed Practicum Proposal Form (PPF) and NLC Practicum Placement Agreement (NLCPPA) forms to your course instructor as prompted through the D2L	Forms can be found at https://www.nlc.bc.ca/Admissions/Early-Childhood-Education-and-Care-Admissions