

EFPY 805: Practicum in Educational Psychology
Department of Educational Foundations
Faculty of Education
University of Jos
Practicum Placement Guidelines

Practicum Overview

The purpose of the Practicum Placement is to enable MEd students to conduct an Action Research Study to create a solution to a particular educational problem. This process consists of identifying a problem within the practicum placement, collecting data about that problem, developing an action plan to create a realistic solution to the problem, implementing the action plan, collecting data to evaluate the effectiveness of the problem, and then evaluating whether the solution was effective in addressing the problem.

Ideally, the practicum placement should last for six weeks. The MEd student will be in the practicum placement for six hours each day for four days of the week. This results in a total of 144 hours in the practicum placement (6 hours per day x 4 days per week x 6 weeks). The fifth day is then be dedicated for the time, thought, planning, and research necessary to conduct the action research study.

If, due to the constraints of other coursework, studies, or practical considerations, the practicum must be extended, the student must still complete a total of 144 hours within the practicum placement. However, all hours should be completed within one (1) academic term. If the practicum placement stretches beyond six weeks, then the student should consider that each week would ordinarily be 24 hours of time. Therefore, each “week” for the action research cycle as noted below should last approximately 24 hours.

Each student must complete the attached log of hours for the practicum placement.

General Guidelines for the Action Research Cycle

Week	Activity	Goal
1	Look: Participant Observation	Identify a relevant problem in the placement
2	Think: Gather Information	Collect baseline data on the problem and potential solutions to the problem
3	Think: Create Action Plan	Create a well-designed Action Plan to address the identified problem
4-5	Act: Implement Action Plan	
6	Look: Gather Information	Collect post-intervention data to determine the effectiveness of the problem
	Think: Evaluate Action Plan	Evaluate the effectiveness of the Action Plan via written report

Evaluation of Final Report

Section	Approximate Length	Criteria	Total Points
Statement of Problem	2 paragraphs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem is clear • Problem is specific to the practicum placement 	7
Brief Literature Review	1 page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One or two studies related to the problem are reviewed • Theory/concepts related to the problem are explained 	7
Action Plan Purpose (5 pts) Goal (5 pts) Brief Overview (10 pts) Tasks (8 pts) Persons (2 pts) Place (2 pts) Timeline (2 pts) Resources (2 pts)	3 pages, including each of the subsections listed to the left	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose is related to the problem • Goal: A specific, measurable goal is stated and related to the Purpose • Brief Overview: A summary of the solution is described, as well as how the solution is anticipated to achieve the goal given above • Tasks: Step-by-step lists of activities clearly described. • Persons: Persons responsible for each task are stated. • Place: Clearly stated • Timeline: When each task should be accomplished is clear • Resources: Materials/resources needed to accomplish the tasks is thorough 	36
Method of Data Collection Research Design (5 pts) Participants (5 pts) Instruments (5 pts) Procedures for Data Collection (5 pts)	2 pages, including each of the subsections to the left	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research design is clearly stated and described. • Participants: Those who participated in data collection to determine the effectiveness of the intervention clearly described • Instruments: Used to determine the effectiveness of the intervention clearly described • Procedures for data collection: When, where, how, and how long for data collection described 	20
Evaluation of Action Plan	3 pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data related to the effectiveness of the intervention clearly presented. • The effectiveness of the Action Plan was clearly stated. • The evaluation was supported by the data collected. • Suggestions for improvement to the Action Plan were thoughtful and practical. 	20
References	1 page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow APA Format 	3

Appendices		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruments for Data Collection are designed to collect relevant data • Lesson plans (if necessary for the Action Plan) are thorough • Any other documentation necessary to understand the Action Plan are complete and thorough 	7
		Total	100

Final Note. As noted in class, this practicum is an Action Research Study in and of itself. Therefore, if there are any questions, concerns, or suggestions for improvement, please let me know. You can come to my office (Office Hours 10-11am everyday) or contact me via email at Katrina.korb@gmail.com

