

ECIS Advanced Practicum REVISED POLICY STATEMENT

The ECIS Graduate Program has recently instituted changes in existing policies related to enrollment in Advanced Practicum (SPED 63992-002). This change will affect those graduate students entering the ECIS graduate program as of Fall 2002. Graduate students enrolled in the ECIS program prior to Fall 2002 may elect to adhere to the practica policies that were in effect at the time of program admission (please see your advisor).

Currently, the ECIS Graduate Program offers three (3) supervised practicum experiences for students:

(1) Birth to 3 Advanced Practicum Experience

Supervised observation and/or participation in an early intervention setting for children ages 0-3 with developmental delays and disabilities OR supervised observation and/or participation in research and/or scholarly activities related to the development, delivery, and/or evaluation of early intervention services to children and their families. Birth to 3 experiences are required for any student seeking the early intervention specialist certificate. If completed during a summer semester, students are required to register for 3 credits of advanced practicum. If completed during an academic year semester, students are required to register for 6 credits of advanced practicum and attend a monthly seminar during the semester they conduct their practicum.

(2) Preschool Advanced Practicum Experience

Supervised observation and/or participation in a center-based or itinerant program for children ages three to six with developmental delays and disabilities OR supervised observation and/or participation in research and/or scholarly activities related to the development, delivery, and/or evaluation of early childhood special education services to children and their families. Preschool experiences are required for any student seeking the early childhood intervention specialist licensure (ECIS) or the early education of the handicapped validation (EEH). Students may enroll for their preschool experience during either fall or spring semester. Students are required to register for 6 credits of advanced practicum and attend a monthly seminar during the semester they conduct their practicum.

(3) Kindergarten to Grade 3 Advanced Practicum Experience

Supervised observation and/or participation in a school-based setting for children ages Kindergarten through third grade with developmental delays and disabilities OR supervised observation and/or participation in research and/or scholarly activities related to the development, delivery, and/or evaluation of early childhood special education services to children and their families. School-age experiences are required for any student seeking the early childhood intervention specialist licensure (ECIS). Students may enroll for their school-age experience during either fall or spring semester. Students are required to register for 6 credits of advanced practicum and attend a monthly seminar during the semester they conduct their practicum.

Note, approximately 10 hours a week for a 15-week period constitutes a 3 credit hour practicum (i.e., approximately 150 hours of contact with young children and families under KSU supervision). Attendance and participation in monthly seminars (2.5 hours a month), plus meetings with supervisors/cooperating teachers, on-line work, preparation of case studies, and readings (up to 6 hours per week) constitutes the 3 credit hour seminar.

The identification and selection of a particular advanced practicum experience (0-3, preschool, and/or K-3), as well as the exact nature of the practicum experience, will depend upon the licensure and/or area of certification desired by the student and a self-assessment of student knowledge and skill related to the ECIS program competencies.

To enroll in any practica experiences, students must seek prior approval from their respective ECIS program advisor (Dr. Pretti-Frontczak or Dr. Brady) before the due date posted on the ECIS webpage each semester (<http://fpsrv.dl.kent.edu/ecis/Web/Announcements/announcements.htm>)

If you are currently employed within an early intervention program, preschool educational setting, or K-3 educational setting, at the discretion and with the approval of your ECIS program advisor, you may complete all and/or part of an advanced practicum experience within your job setting. You are encouraged to discuss this option with your respective ECIS program advisor.

NEW ADVANCED PRACTICUM POLICY STATEMENT

Professional Ethics

The Division of Exceptional Children, Council for Exceptional Children (DEC/CEC) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) offer guidelines for ethical and responsible behavior and set forth a common basis for resolving the particular ethical dilemmas encountered by early intervention and early childhood educators. *Students are required to follow those guidelines during their advanced practica experiences.* Students are introduced to the DEC/CEC and NAEYC Codes of Conduct in their coursework (e.g. SPED 63956 and 63952). In addition, all other coursework and field experiences reflect these guidelines.

University Policies/Guidelines

As a representative of Kent State University, *you are expected to practice sound professional ethics and to conduct yourself in a professional, responsible, and reliable manner at all times.* Remember that you are a guest in the cooperating early intervention program and/or school and are expected to maintain high professional standards.

The following are some general guidelines for professional conduct during your advanced practicum placement:

1. If for some reason you are not able to attend the agreed upon day(s) for your advanced practicum experience, please contact the field supervisor (e.g. supervising teacher, supervising administrator), the university supervisor, and the program or school site office

- and let them know. Personal commitments or academic deadlines are not acceptable reasons for absences.
2. Be prompt and arrive early enough to *begin* work on time. Fulfill completely the commitment made to the field supervisor/class/group/student.
 3. Wear professional attire, making choices that blend into the environment. In general, college dress is too casual. Be sure that you are well groomed. Program and school administrators appreciate our attention to this matter.
 4. Transportation is the responsibility of the student.
 5. Learn and carry out the center/school/program policies and procedures that have been established for personnel. Abide by the rules and regulations established for center/school/program personnel.
 6. Take responsibility for acquiring pertinent information (e.g. IFSP/IEP goals/objectives) about students for whom you share intervention/education responsibility and for becoming thoroughly acquainted with these students.
 7. Be discrete about your personal life. Your advanced practicum setting is not an appropriate place to discuss your personal/social life.
 8. Beeper and cell phones are never appropriate in the intervention/classroom setting.
 9. Be sensitive when taking notes during your advanced practicum experience. Never record anything that you would be uncomfortable sharing with your field supervisor (e.g. supervising teaching, supervising administrator).
 10. Keep your university supervisor informed of progress made and problems encountered.