

Professional Practicum in Developmental Psychology

Purpose

The purpose of the professional practicum is to provide the student with training in a new skill or area pertinent to the student's career goals. This requirement may be satisfied in a number of ways, including demonstrating competence in a foreign language for a professional purpose such as translating articles, learning how to carry out an advanced statistical technique and giving a workshop on the technique for interested faculty and students, creating a computer program to automate some component of a research project, or doing community-based work in settings where knowledge concerning developmental psychology is being applied.

Timing

The practicum can commence any time after spring quarter of the second year, and should be completed by the end of the third year. It can occur concurrently with finishing up required coursework and the second year project.

Practicum Proposal

Once the student and advisor have settled on an idea for the student's practicum, the student should summarize the proposed practicum activity, explain how the practicum facilitates the development of a new skill, and explain why this new skill is important for the student's professional development. This summary should be submitted on the 1 page Practicum Proposal Form.

Final Report

To complete the practicum, the student should submit a final report to the advisor, get the advisor's signature, and turn in the signed report to the graduate advisor. The report, maximally 2 pages in length, should summarize the practicum experience, focusing on what the student has learned and why this is useful for his or her professional development.