

What is a practicum in MEPAP?

“A practicum is any experience wherein students learn by taking on responsible roles as workers in organizations and observing and reflecting on what happens while they are there. Expected outcomes of such experiences include increased self-esteem and personal growth derived from successfully meeting new interpersonal and intellectual challenges, acquisition of particular skills and knowledge, exposure to various work roles and career choices, and service to a particular community”

Stanton, T. and Kamil A., *The Experience Hand: A Student Manual for Making the Most of an Internship*, The Carroll Press, Cranston, RI 1987.

How much time is spent on a practicum?

The minimum number of hours to be spent on practicum responsibilities is 90 hours. This is done at a specified long-term care setting called a *practicum site*. The practicum consists of 2 areas of responsibility:

1. Weekly required assignments that will be completed and submitted in writing. The instructor assigns these.
2. Weekly onsite responsibilities that address delivery of service, planning, department operations or documentation. The practicum adviser determines this schedule. A practicum workbook will be distributed with necessary forms and suggested topics for conversation.

How do I find a practicum site?

The practicum site can be any of the care options on the continuum of care. However, the student **will be responsible** for understanding the regulations and documentation for all care options, including the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) RAI procedures. For those currently working in a care facility, the facility can serve as the practicum site. For those not currently working, a volunteer agreement will be completed with a practicum site under the direction of the activity professional.

Who can serve as the practicum advisor?

The practicum supervisor can be a certified activity professional or a qualified activity professional with at least 3 years of experience. The facility administrator, director of nursing or social worker may serve as the practicum supervisor under the direction of the instructor.

How much time do I need to meet with the PA?

It is recommended that a time to meet with your PA be established on a weekly basis, ranging from 15-20 minutes. This time should be used to ask questions, to complete questions on the class assignments, discuss problems, and discuss suggested weekly topics. A weekly practicum report is required that indicates the time spent at the facility and the types of duties that were observed or performed.



Modular Education Program for Activity Professionals Part 1
Practicum Schedule

Week	Assignment Title	Weekly activity log and progress note	Due Date
1	Activity Profession Associations Resources Activity Profession and Colloquy	X	2 week assignment
2	Gerontology and Life Review	X	
3	Quality of Life Interviews	X	
4	Government and Social Systems	X	
5	Professionalism and Networking	X	
6	Goal Directed Planning: Resident Outcomes	X	
7	Program Development Planning Quality of Life Care Plan	X	
8	Activity Assessment	X	
9	The Adult Client: The Impact of Health Conditions	X	2 week assignment
10	Alzheimer's Communication and Programming	X	
11	Assessment and Care Planning	X	
12	Care Planning and Reviews	X	
13	Activity Intervention Article/Program Development	X	
14	Service Delivery: Population Assessment	X	

Discussion Questions for Weekly Practicum Meetings

In addition to the core content areas that are presented in the lessons each week, a specific area of activity programming is discussed. The following table indicates the specific area and provides suggested topics for the weekly discussion between the student and advisor.

Program Area	Suggested topics
1. Socialization Games	How do you begin a group? Do residents remember other's names? How important is it to introduce residents to each other? What "games" are used to stimulate conversation and interaction?
2. Reminiscing and life review	What topics have been most successful? What activities have you implemented based on reminiscence?
3. Welcome and newcomer activities	How do you welcome new residents? What part do other residents play? Do you have a formal newcomer activity?
4. Resident Council	Is there a structured Resident Council? How is it governed?
5. Traditional: Bingo, Birthdays and Holidays	How many holiday celebrations are held throughout the year? Are there facility traditions regarding any holiday celebrations? How are birthdays recognized? Is Bingo seen as a passive or active pursuit by the staff?
6. Active Isolates	How many residents remain self-isolating and choose not to participate in group activities? They are active but not part of the "community" programs.
7. Special Events and Themed Programs	How long does it take to plan a special event? What are the favorites? How many "themed" days or weeks are recognized in a month? What are some of the popular themes?
8. Animals and pets	How many residents have their own pets? How often do animals visit? What "pet therapy" organization do you work with regularly? Have you ever had any problems with animals in the building?
9. Exercise and active games	Do the residents prefer exercise to music or without? Are props used in the exercise program? What % of residents attend an exercise group? What alternative forms of exercise have you tried? (yoga, tai chi etc.)

10. Musical components of the activity program	How many different ways do you use music? What specific type of music is most popular? Is music “listening” offered as an activity?
11. Men’s Programs & humor	<p>What specific activities do men seem to enjoy the most? What is the difference between the participation of men and women?</p> <p>How do you bring laughter into the daily lives of residents?</p>
12. Spiritual Short term rehab	<p>How many different denominations do you serve ? How much participation do you have with the local worship leaders?</p> <p>If you have rehab, how do you reinforce therapy goals?</p>
13. Outings	<p>How often are outings scheduled? What staff typically is assigned to go?</p> <p>How do you determine which residents are “appropriate” for various outings?</p>
14. Art	Do you have quality art supplies as part of the activity department? Is there a differentiation between an art program and a craft?
15. Other	

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