Bloomsburg University

Exceptionality Programs

A Guide to Practicums and Seminars for Early Childhood, Elementary, Secondary, and Special Education Majors

Updated: 2/11

Note: All practicum applicants must have updated clearances and TB test results.
Bloomsburg Area School District PDS Internship Program 79. 312 (3 credits)

This K-12 field-based experience is designed for any education major wishing to complete an intensive pre-student teaching experience. Students are matched with a cooperating teacher in their area of study. Students complete 120 hours of supervised classroom experience under the direct guidance of their cooperating teacher and university supervisor. A practicum contract is developed to specify the objectives, schedule and desired outcomes for completion of the practicum. Students may return to the same classroom for their student teaching experience. District staff will provide four afternoon seminars to highlight critical content for pre-service educators. This 3 credit –internship experience will serve as a bridge to a successful student teaching semester. Elementary, Secondary and Special Education majors are welcome.

For more information and to apply, please contact (as soon as possible):

**Dr. James Krause**, Department of Exceptionality Programs
104 Navy Hall | (570) 389-4991 | jkrause@bloomu.edu

Danville Area School District PDS - Elementary Schools Practicum — 79.320 (6 credits)

The Danville Area School District Professional Development School (PDS) Elementary Schools Practicum is a K-5 program designed to provide both undergraduate and graduate students in early childhood education, elementary education and/or special education dual majors with practical school-based experiences during the fall semester prior to spring semester student teaching.

An emphasis is on the inclusion of students in the regular class. Bloomsburg University PDS students spend the fall semester in Danville Elementary schools on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. School district teachers and administrators teach modules on topics such as technology: e-portfolios and SMART Board™, ethics, classroom management, behavior management, differentiated instruction, adaptations, progress monitoring, balanced literacy, resumes and interviews.

Each BU student also spends time working closely with one mentor to observe, plan and teach lessons in his/her elementary classroom. This mentor becomes one of the BU student’s co-operating teachers during spring semester student teaching. A university faculty instructor is assigned to assist BU students during this school-based experience.

All candidates must meet practicum objectives with their mentor teacher and students with whom they are working by completing specific assignments such as reflective journals, lesson plans, rubrics, progress monitoring graphs and self-assessments on a pre/post basis that match the conceptual framework.

For more detailed information and to apply, please contact (as soon as possible):

**Dr. Darlene Perner**, Department of Exceptionality Programs
122 Navy Hall | (570) 389-4075 | dperner@bloomu.edu

Berwick Area School/Hazleton BU PDS 62.496.92 (3 credits for practicum)

This practicum is designed to provide undergraduate students with experiences involving children from Pre-K to grade six under the supervision of university faculty, school district administrators and teachers. The Hazleton Practicum is located in Heights-Terrace Elementary-Middle School in Hazleton. Heights-Terrace has a 28% minority student population. The Berwick Practicum is located in Salem Elementary. Pre-service teachers are immersed in the school culture with PA standards and ESL standards, computer-assisted learning, IST, and exemplary literacy programs. All students spend a full semester, two days per week, working with school personnel and university faculty designing lessons and activities to enhance the knowledge and skills of the students. Special emphasis is placed upon students completing one of their university courses during one-half of each of the two days on the school site. The other half of each day is spent working with students in the classrooms under the direct tutelage of university faculty and the district's administrators and teachers. All candidates must meet practicum objectives with their mentor teacher and students with whom they are working by completing reflective classroom observations, reading journal exchanges, two interdisciplinary units to be taught during student teaching, and a self-evaluation of learning throughout the practicum experience. Students will register for 62.310-3 credits (special section); and 62.496-3 credits. **Special note: Students must plan with their advisor to reserve 62.310 Teaching Fine Arts for the Fall semester before their Spring Student Teaching experience.**

Contact: **Dr. Caryn Terwilliger**, Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education
McCormick Room 3103-B | (570) 389-4879 | cterwill@bloomu.edu
**Middle School Migrant Leadership Institute 62.496/596 (3 credits)**

The Middle School Migrant Leadership Institute focuses on middle school aged children as future leaders through the enhancement of academic and interpersonal skills. Workshops, field trips, and discussion groups promote 1) leadership, 2) civic responsibility, 3) communication skills, 4) critical thinking and problem-solving, 5) academic and career opportunities, and 6) personal development.

All camp participants are assigned to a group supervised by a university student enrolled in a Teacher Education program. The student campers use the arts (e.g., drama, poetry, music) to think through and complete tasks that require critical thinking and problem-solving. Social events are also organized that include team-building outdoor activities, evening recreational time, community outings, and an awards ceremony. Campers and university student camp counselors sleep in campus dorms and eat in the campus cafeteria.

Bloomsburg University education students assist in the camp planning and complete assignments before and after the weeklong experience with campers. These assignments include the reading and discussion of research articles pertaining to English Language Learners (ELL) and diversity, participation in professional development workshops and simulations, online discussions, written daily camp reflections, conducting an action research project examining their own attitudes and actions concerning racial consciousness, and reporting on the professional impact of the experience.

**Contact:** Dr. Caryn Terwilliger, Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education  
McCormick Room 3103-B | (570) 389-4879 | cterwill@bloomu.edu

* Early Childhood Practicum 62.496

The early childhood practicum runs first summer session.

**Contact:** Prof. Christopher Heery, Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education  
McCormick 3208 | (570) 389-4721 | cheery@bloomu.edu

**Urban Center Seminar (Harrisburg) - TBA**

Participants in the Harrisburg practicum spend two weeks immersed in the urban educational experience while staying in or commuting to Harrisburg. BU students participate in field experiences in inner city classrooms; participate in community activity projects while interacting with students, parents, and community leaders; attend professional development seminars; interact in learning forums that focus on urban education; and visit historical and cultural areas and museums. Days typically run from the start of school day until approximately 9:00 PM. Students must attend all activities and events. Field assignments will be based on the student’s major and area of interest. All candidates must meet practicum objectives with their mentor teacher and students with whom they are working by completing reflective journals, time sheets, case studies, rubrics, and self-assessments on a pre/post basis that match the conceptual framework.

**Contact:** Dr. Todd Hoover, Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education,  
McCormick 3206 | (570) 389-5376 | thoove2@bloomu.edu

**Urban Center Seminar (Bethlehem) 79.461/561**

The Bethlehem practicum provides a specialized field experience for students desiring to experience and learn about inner-city schools and urban education. Emphasis includes the learning development of children and adolescents, effective instructional and management strategies, characteristics of community and family involvement, and community volunteer work. Schools selected will be in an urban environment. Field assignments will be based on the student’s major and area of interest. All candidates must meet practicum objectives with their mentor teacher and students with whom they are working by completing reflective journals, time sheets, case studies, rubrics, and self-assessments on a pre/post basis that match the conceptual framework.

**Contact:** Frank D’Angelo, Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education  
McCormick 3123| (570) 389-4812| fdangelo@bloomu.edu
Cameroon – Ethiopia Africa (6 credits)
This K-12 experience is during the first summer session and will take place in conjunction with the University of Buea at the foot of the Cameroon Mountain. Students will complete coursework for Multi-Cultural Education and observe teaching and learning in a diverse classroom setting.

Students will register for 60.406-3 credits (special section); and 62.496-3 credits. **Special note: Students must plan with their advisor to reserve 60.406 Multicultural Education for the Summer semester.**

**Contact: Dr. David Walker, Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education**
McCormick 2225 | (570) 389-4076 | dwalker@bloomu.edu | Blog: camstudy.blogspot.com

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Central Columbia School District PDS Practicum 79, 320 (6 credits *)
Professional Development School is a K-12 program open to both undergraduate and graduate students in any education major during the fall semester prior to spring semester student teaching. University PDS students spend the fall semester in Central schools on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. School district teachers and administrators teach modules in technology, ethics, classroom management, instructional strategies, inclusion, assessment, balanced literacy, brain-based learning, time management and writing. BU students will also spend time working closely with two mentors in classrooms to observe, plan and teach lessons. These mentors will be BU students’ co-operating teachers during spring semester student teaching. A university faculty instructor is assigned to assist BU students during this school-based experience. All candidates must meet practicum objectives with their mentor teacher and students with whom they are working by completing reflective journals, time sheets, case studies, rubrics, and self-assessments on a pre/post basis that match the conceptual framework.

Applications are available in the Dept. of Educational Studies and Secondary Education, MHSC 1210 and the Dept. of Exceptionality Programs 104 Navy Hall.

**Contact: Dr. Robert Gates, Department of Educational Studies and Secondary Education**
McCormick 1101 | (570) 389-4961 | rgates@bloomu.edu