



Concurrent Program Frequently Asked Questions For Practicum

Q: How do I go about finding a placement?

A: The Practice Teaching Office is responsible for placing all students in the Concurrent program. We ask that students not contact schools or teachers directly.

Q: Can I request a specific school?

A: The school boards assist us in locating appropriate placements based on the students' preferred location and their place of residence. We cannot request specific schools from the school boards as we are one of many programs requesting placements and such a request would hinder the placement process.

Q: I am a Junior/Intermediate student. Will I be guaranteed a placement in grade 9/10?

A: In the Concurrent Program J/I students are not offered the possibility of a 9/10 placement until their fifth year. School Boards are asked to place J/I students in junior grades, as well as intermediate grades. It is difficult to find a teacher who only teach grade 9/10 in one subject, and we can only place you in your teachable subject.

Q: What year of the program do students in the JI division have a placement in a High School ?

A: In fifth year of the Concurrent program, schools boards are asked to place JI students in a grade 9/10 placement, if possible.

Q: How do we find out about our placement?

A: Once a placement has been secured for you, Sandra Minor will either email your placement to you or will request that you come and pick it up at the Concurrent Education Practice Teaching office (F206).

Q: Is my practicum split between different schools and grades in the same year?

A: Your placements during the university year (i.e.2008/09) will take place at the same school and with the same associate teacher. Each year we will request a different grade level based on your division and in most cases you will be placed in a different school.

Q: Is it possible that I could be placed in the same school for more than one year of the program.

A: It is common that you may have more than one placement in the same school. However, you could be with a different grade and where possible a different associate teacher. It may be to your benefit to list several cities as

preferred locations. It is important also to note that we cannot guarantee your preferred location as the school boards sometimes have to make use of as many locations within their jurisdiction in order to successfully obtain placements.

Q: What School Boards can we choose to have our placements occur?

A: At the present, the Practice Teaching Office makes use of a select number of boards from both the Public and Catholic School Boards throughout Ontario.

Q: If I am not satisfied with the placement I received, can it be changed?

A: No. Due to the large number of students and the fact that we work with 52 school boards, it is not possible to accommodate special considerations of individual students. Your associate teacher has been notified of your placement and has planned for your arrival.

Q: Can practice teaching placement dates be changed?

A: Practice Teaching dates cannot be changed. As part of the Observation & Practice Teaching course, these dates are carefully determined in consultation with:

- The Registrar's Office. Practicum cannot be scheduled until after the Arts and Science exam period.
- The Faculty of Arts and Science class schedule and Faculty of Education class schedule.
- The Consecutive students' practicum dates (approximately 800 students)

These designated dates for both our Concurrent and Consecutive programs have been provided to all school boards when requesting associate teachers.

Changing placement dates would not only affect the Practice Teaching Office but the following as well:

- Relationships with schools and school boards throughout Ontario
- Faculty advisors who are scheduled to supervise Concurrent students during the May practicum
- Potential scheduling conflicts with the Registrar's Office and/or the Faculty of Arts & Science
- All Concurrent students.

Please keep in mind that school boards themselves are dealing with several Universities offering Concurrent and Consecutive programs, whose placement dates are scattered throughout the year. It is necessary for the school boards to be able to keep track of student teachers within their schools and to do this the practicum dates must be consistent for all student teachers from individual universities. In order to insure that placements run smoothly and that our good standing with schools and school boards is not jeopardized, students are asked to respect the scheduling of practicum and make every effort to work within the confines of the placement process.

Q: What happens if I miss some of my placement?

A: If you miss any time during your placement due to illness or other reasons, you must inform the Practice Teaching Office as well as the school you are practice teaching with on the day of your absence. Students may be required to make up any time missed during practicum.

Q: What do I do if I have any questions or concerns regarding a placement?

A: Any concerns that may arise before or during your placement should be immediately brought to the attention of Sandy Minor, Practice Teaching Placement Coordinator, 474-3461 Ext. 4224, sandrami@nipissingu.ca.

Q: Do I need to take the Religious Education option course (EDUC 1526)?

A: Students are encouraged to research the hiring practices of school boards. In some school boards, preference in practice teaching and/or hiring may be given to candidates with a pre-service Religious Education course.

Q: I want to complete an international placement, should I take the International Teaching option course?

A: You do not have to take the International Teaching option course to be eligible for an international placement. Remember, that an International placement is an option available to Concurrent students in their fifth year.

Q: What is OESC?

A: The OESC, also known as Ontario Education Services Corporation, provides a vulnerable sector Police Record Check using a standard consent form signed by the individual. The OESC provides these services to school boards, service providers, faculties of education, universities and colleges and various public sector community, social, health and human services agencies, including churches and hospitals. Once you are cleared, you will receive a wallet sized card to take to your placements.

Q: Where do I send my application for OESC?

A: Please mail your form to OESC in Toronto and not to the Practice Teaching Office. The address is found on the bottom of the application. It is suggested that you mail your application and cheque through a method that allows you to track your application so you are able to confirm its arrival. The cost for the check is \$30.00.

Q: Can I get a police check from my local police station instead of OESC?

A: Nipissing University along with other universities providing teaching programs, require that **ALL** students obtain their police check through OESC. A regular check will be denied and you will have to submit an application to OESC. Failure to do so will result in the postponement of placements.

Q: How am I notified regarding Concurrent practicum updates or additional information?

A: There is a bulletin board outside the Consecutive Education Practice Teaching Office (F201) where information will be posted for the Concurrent program. As well, you will receive occasional notices through your university email. Please do not use any email address other than your **Nipissing email**. You will also be able to find information about the Concurrent Program and placement information on our website at <http://www.nipissingu.ca/education>. Simply select BA/BSc/Bed Concurrent, click on Practice Teaching, and you will find the handbooks and memos to all Concurrent students.

Q: If I have any questions or concerns regarding practicum, who do I contact?

A: Sandra Minor, Practice Teaching Placement Coordinator, is responsible for Concurrent practicum and will be happy to assist you. You may call Sandra 474-3461 ext. 4224, or email sandrami@nipissingu.ca. Sandra's Office hours are Monday to Friday 9a.m. -5p.m. Rm F206.