

Practicum:  
Connecting the Classroom to Careers  
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The Practicum in Teaching course (EDUC-2100-1H), which is taken in the final semester of an education degree at Northwest College, allows students to exercise concepts and apply the information they have learned thus far in a supportive and realistic environment, which offers preparation for future careers.

Each student is assigned a placement in a local k-12 classroom with a mentor teacher, based on their teaching specialty. Participants observe their mentor teacher and interactions with students. Practicum students may assist their mentor teacher with various classroom activities such as general organization, helping field homework questions, passing out or designing worksheets, and other tasks, which provide a preview of the profession. Students also practice creating lesson plans and teaching them to their class, under the supervision of the practicum administrator and their mentor teacher.

Providing a practicum experience for education students establishes valuable insights into their future careers from the educator's perspective, possibly for the first time. Practicum provides a new perspective on information that the student has already been exposed to as well as future concepts and experiences in their field. Students are more adequately prepared for the continuation of their education and the beginning of their careers as a result of participation in the Education Practicum course.