

Frequently Asked Questions

Optional 20-Hour Human Ecology Practicum Information

Which human ecology courses provide experiential practicum learning in a supervised setting for up to 20 hours?

Optional experiential learning opportunities are available in full-credit courses in the areas of Grades 9 to 12 Food and Nutrition, Grades 10 to 12 Family Studies, Grades 9 to 12 Textile Arts and Design, and Grades 11 to 12 Environmental Design.

Are all students who take the course required to complete the practicum placement?

No. This is an optional component of the full-credit Human Ecology: Food and Nutrition, Family Studies, Textile Arts and Design, and Environmental Design courses. The practicum option is up to the discretion of the human ecology teacher/school.

What is expected of the student during the practicum experience?

The practicum experience must meet the specific learning outcomes identified in the framework of outcomes (e.g., Food and Nutrition: Goal 5.6 found on pages 29 to 30; Family Studies: Goal 6.6 found on pages 48 to 50; Textile Arts and Design: Goal 6.6 found on pages 34 to 35; and Environmental Design: Goal 5.6 found on pages 24 to 25).

When are the practicum hours completed?

The framework of outcomes allows for the hands-on practicum experience to be completed during the school day within the scheduled class time. This full-credit course (110 hours) provides a minimum of 90 hours of classroom instruction and up to 20 hours for the practicum. Decisions related to practicum hours outside of the school day or course time are at the discretion of the school/human ecology teacher.

What are the requirements prior to implementing the practicum experience?

Students may be required to provide certain documentation (e.g., Criminal Record Check, Vulnerable Sector Check, Child Abuse Registry Check, emergency first aid and CPR certification, Food Handler Certification). The human ecology teacher will have to determine the school/division and workplace site/facility policies/requirements.

Manitoba Education and Training assumes responsibility for Workers Compensation coverage for all students taking part in work-related education. Human ecology teachers must register their program with the department prior to implementing any phase of an experiential career-readiness learning program. Visit www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/policy/work_ed.html for more information.

Teachers may consider requiring students to take the SAFE Work Manitoba free online course prior to attaining a Youth Worker Readiness Certificate. Visit <https://ywrcc.safemanitoba.com> for more information.

How do teachers find suitable site/facility or workplace placements?

Schools may consider developing a suitability guideline similar to those used for work and community-based program placements. Teachers should be aware of the regulatory standards and best practice when considering placement in a site/facility or workplace.

FAQs

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Can family studies students attain their practicum hours in a school's on-site infant lab/nursery/pre-school programs (licence-exempt)?

Please refer to [FAQ Applied Family Studies: Required 40-Hour Practicum Information](#).

Can family studies students attain their practicum hours in a home-based, non-licensed facility?

Please refer to [FAQ Applied Family Studies: Required 40-Hour Practicum Information](#).

Does the human ecology teacher have to check on the students at the placements?

Yes. The framework of outcomes states, "Students must be visited by the teacher at the workplace regularly" (34-FC-TAD, FN-FC-29, 24-FC-ED) or "Students must be visited regularly by the teacher and/or school designate at the practicum site" (48-FC-FS).

When does the school teacher/designate* visit students?

Typically, the practicum experience takes place during class time, which provides the teacher and/or designate with the time to visit the student. There may be more than one student placed at a site/facility or workplaces may be in close proximity to each other to allow for two to three site visits during the scheduled time.

What is the role of the practicum student, school teacher/designate, and the supervisor/mentor?

Practicum Student	Students have the overall responsibility for their own learning during the practicum, and will apply subject area knowledge and career development skills while functioning in a workplace environment. The student works under the supervision of the facility supervisor/mentor and in some cases, depending on the workplace environment and possible safety issues, may not be left alone.
School Teacher/ Designate	The human ecology teacher/designate provides guidance to students and mentors in facilitating the achievement of learning outcomes through applied practice. The teacher facilitates communication between all parties involved; encourages the student's personal growth; and supports the student through feedback on course outcomes and practicum evaluations. The teacher and/or school designate must visit the students at the practicum site regularly.
Supervisor/ Mentor	The supervisor/mentor serves as a role model, facilitator, and consultant to enable a student to apply theory to practice. This person will have the most contact with the student and human ecology teacher/designate. The student reports to and receives feedback on the day-to-day practicum experiences from this person.

Can students drive to their practicum placement?

Please refer to [FAQ Applied Family Studies: Required 40-Hour Practicum Information](#).

Where can I find more information about human ecology resources and the curriculum?

Visit the *Human Ecology* website at https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/teched/home_ec.html for more information. Educators can access additional support material on Maple (Manitoba Professional Learning Environment) at <http://mapleforem.ca>.

* A school designate must hold a Manitoba teacher's certificate and have knowledge of the course content/practicum learning outcomes and of the site/facility or workplace environment.