

Frequently Asked Questions

Human Ecology: Applied Family Studies Required 40-Hour Practicum Information

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 that is inclusive of infant/child CPR). The teacher will have to determine the school/division and child-care facility policies/requirements.

Manitoba Education and Training assumes responsibility for Workers Compensation coverage for all students of work-related education. Applied family studies 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://ywrc.safemanitoba.com> for more information.

How easy/difficult is it to find practicum placements?

The framework of outcomes provides suggested practicum opportunities (GLO 5.6, page 16). Teachers are encouraged to network with the school division/local community child-care facilities to secure practicum placements.

How do teachers find suitable preschool placements for the 40-hour practicum?

Sources of information about various placement possibilities include the following:

- Kindergarten: Some school divisions have a designated lead for Kindergarten support (literacy coach, student services coordinator, Early Years consultant, assistant superintendent, etc.), or you could directly contact principals of nearby Early Years schools.
- Parent Child Coalitions: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild/parentchild/index.html>
- School-Based Family Centres: Some school divisions have school-based family centres for families with children under the age of 6 years.
- Licensed Child Care Search: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/index.html>
- Aboriginal Head Start Centres: <https://www.mbaboriginalheadstart.ca>

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

Yes. Please note the framework of outcomes provides a recommended criterion for licence-exempt facilities (GLO 5.6 page 16). These sites are not required to meet provincial licensing standards. Applied family studies teachers should be aware of the regulatory standards, and of best practices and current thinking about infant/toddler/preschool development and pedagogical approaches when considering placement in a licence-exempt program.

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

No.

If the high school students are over 18 years of age, are they allowed to be alone with children during their practicum placements?

No. Regardless of age, students should never be left alone with children while on their practicum.

FAQs

Human Ecology: Applied Family Studies

Required 40-Hour Practicum Information

What is the role of the practicum student, child care assistant/educational assistant, school teacher/designate,* facility director/school principal, and the facility supervisor/mentor?

Practicum Student	Students have the overall responsibility for their own learning during the practicum, and will apply ECE competencies and theories and career development skills while functioning in a workplace environment. The student works with children under the supervision of the facility supervisor/mentor and should not be left alone with children nor be counted into the facility ratio of early childhood staff to children.
Child Care Assistant/Educational Assistant	A child care assistant/educational assistant is a support person in the facility who works collaboratively with the early childhood educators or teachers as relevant to the setting. The child care assistant/educational assistant may provide some supervision of the practicum student but should not be responsible for mentoring or assessing the student.
School Teacher/Designate	The family studies 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 their practicum sites regularly.
Facility Director/School Principal	Initial contact between the family studies teacher and the facility director or school principal will ensure that management agrees to host a student for the term of the practicum. Most communications will be between the teacher and the facility mentor.
Facility Supervisor/Mentor	The teacher or early childhood educator (ECE II or III) serves as a role model, facilitator, and consultant to enable a student to apply theory to practice with young children. This person will have the most contact with the student and family studies 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?

The Manitoba School Boards Association's *Risk Management at a Glance* booklet highly recommends that students not be used to transport other students, nor act as trip drivers. MSBA also states that volunteer drivers under age 21 are not permitted to transport students. Students driving themselves to a practicum should follow the school division's policy.

When and how do the Grade 12 Applied Family Studies students apply for classification?

Students 18 years old and older can apply for classification online at https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/resources/info_classification.html while enrolled in the Grade 12 Applied Family Studies course. Applicants will receive their CCA (child care assistant) certificate via email.

Child care facility directors need to ensure that CCAs they employ have completed a relevant 40-hour post-secondary course within their first year of employment. The Department of Families will recognize the Applied Family Studies 40S high school course (course code 0491) as meeting the 40-hour course requirement for child care assistants if the student meets the criteria requirement. High school students graduating with Applied Family Studies 40S on their transcripts will be eligible to use the completed high school course as their 40-hour course requirement. It is the student's responsibility to present their transcript to the centre director upon employment. Please note this is valid for 8 years after completion of the Applied Family Studies 40S course. Visit https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/students/workforce/40-hour_course.html for further information.

* A school designate must hold a Manitoba teacher's certificate and have knowledge of the course content/practicum learning outcomes and of early childhood development.