

Plan 2: The Practicum

M.A. Degree in Communication Studies

Approved Fall 2002

This optional plan of study is designed as an alternative for those students who enter the M.A. program primarily to pursue professional interests or teaching requirements. It provides students who enter the program with specific career goals the opportunity to include in their plan of study some type of practical application of their academic work. Students who wish to pursue ***Plan 2: The Practicum*** must secure permission to do so, ***no later than upon completion of 12 hours of graduate coursework.***

To secure permission to pursue ***Plan 2: The Practicum***, students must submit a practicum proposal to their academic advisors by the due date set each semester by the Department. Students who plan to complete their degrees within one calendar year are urged to submit their proposals early in their first semester of coursework ***but no later than the first two weeks at the beginning of the next semester.*** An acceptable proposal should include, but is not limited to, the following:

- A statement of purpose that articulates how the practicum option will serve to address the professional or teaching goals of the applicant in ways that the thesis or non-thesis options would not. Included in the statement should be --
 1. A discussion of the applicant's academic preparation, including undergraduate coursework as well as specific required or elective courses on the plan of study, for doing the practicum
 2. A specific type of practical application of the academic work to be performed in the practicum, e.g. --
 - An internship (**COM 590**)
 - A creative project (**COM 598**)
- A description of the proposed practicum experience:
 1. To propose a ***practicum internship***, the applicant has the responsibility
 - To identify a site of the internship, the name of a supervisor, the duties or responsibilities to be fulfilled, hours committed each week, etc.
 - To express specifically how the internship will be supervised by the academic advisor, e.g. making weekly journal reports and/or holding weekly sessions
 - To arrange for the academic advisor to make personal contact with the site supervisor, at least once, preferably on site, to clarify the criteria to be met by the internship
 2. To propose a ***practicum creative project***, the applicant has the responsibility
 - To identify the nature of the project in terms of both practical goals and academic coursework
 - To express specifically how the project will be supervised by the academic advisor
 - To plan how the project will be executed, e.g., if a performance, addressing such issues as resources, scheduling, etc.

To complete ***Plan 2: The Practicum***, students will need to submit the following for the approval of their advisors:

- A final report, written after coursework and the practicum experience have been completed, which should include the following:
 1. Review of the relevant literature from the discipline pertaining to the practicum
 2. Discussion of how specific theory from coursework was applied to the practicum
 3. Report of the specific nature of the practicum experience (as it occurred, rather than as it was proposed) and a comprehensive summary of the experience
 4. Copies of all products of the experience
 5. Bibliography
- A formal colloquium presentation, based on the practicum final report
- A Master's Exam form must be signed by the advisor, Graduate Program Director, and Department Chair, for submission to the Graduate School, upon completion of the final report and the colloquium