

ORLT Skills Practicums

Nov. 24, 2004

Students doing the ORLT major must take two 3-credit skills courses and two 2-credit practicums (for a total of 6 credits of skills courses and 4 credits of practicum). Though these are requirements for the ORLT degree at OSU, they are lower division courses with credit and supervision coming from COCC. ORLT students are also required to do an 8-credit internship.

The *practicum* focuses on utilizing applied skills learned in a skills course and general leadership and communication skills covered in HHP 273 Outdoor Recreation Leadership. For example, you might work for Sun Country Tours as a river guide after taking HHP 294WG Whitewater Raft Guiding. The *internship* focuses on utilizing office/managerial skills. For example, you might work for Sun Country Tours again for an internship, but this time the focus could be on helping them develop their website or creating an e-bulletin program after taking FOR 374 Tourism Information Technology and FOR 475 Hospitality & Tourism Marketing.

Practicums should be in a professional setting where the student is being supervised by someone with a solid experience base in the relevant area (e.g., hospitality services or river guiding). The practicum is designed to be a co-operative work experience with the primary student objective being to apply in a work setting what s/he has learned in relevant courses. The position may be paid or volunteer.

Though not a formal pre-requisite, students should take HHP 273 Outdoor Recreation Leadership before doing their practicums. If you would like an exception to this, please contact Aaron Lish.

Each practicum counts for 2 credits which is equivalent to 60 contact hours. These hours can include training, shadowing/observing, and work time.

Students will keep a journal of daily activities, responsibilities, key learning points, special project work, etc. In addition, students will complete a self-evaluation that is designed to be a summary of the journal. The self-evaluation should include a listing of significant learning that occurred throughout the practicum, discussion of areas in which the student can improve, and discussion of what the student's strengths were. In addition to the self-evaluation, a supervisor evaluation listing strengths, areas for improvement, and whether they would hire the student back in the future will also be completed.

Students who already have work experience that is equivalent to a practicum may request a waiver of one of the required practicums. Students should make this request to Aaron Lish, who will recommend (or not recommend) a waiver to Kreg Lindberg.

We recommend that practicums follow the coursework skill areas selected by the student. For example, students who take HHP 294WG Whitewater Raft Guiding normally would do a practicum involving whitewater raft guiding. However, students are allowed to do practicums in other skill areas. For example, a student could take HHP 294WG and then do a practicum in sea kayaking.

Questions? Contact Aaron Lish or Kreg Lindberg.