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COURSE DESCRIPTION

A practicum is a field experience that allows a student to observe and document how working professionals perform their job responsibilities. Students do participate in a practicum experience, but often to a limited extent. Unlike an internship where students engage in prescribed duties and responsibilities necessary to the proper functioning of a workplace, a practicum is more like an educational shadowing experience that provides students exposure to a real workplace but with fewer predetermined objectives. This course is for students involved a second or second-semester practicum experience. In addition to its emphasis on reflection and writing and presentation skills, it also asks students to think about and demonstrate problem-solving abilities through creativity, innovation, and design thinking.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

HON 350. HONORS PRACTICUM II. (1-3) Prerequisite: Good standing in the Honors College. Second semester course offering a supervised practical experience for honors students.

REQUIREMENTS

To be enrolled in HON 350, students must submit an Honors Practicum Application and have it approved by the Associate Director no later than the first day of the semester in which HON 350 is taken. This application and guidelines for practicums can be found at www.wku.edu/honors/forms/internships.php. Students may *not* enroll in HON 250 and HON 350 simultaneously. HON 250 is taken in conjunction with an Honors College student's *first* practicum experience. HON 350 is taken in conjunction with a student's *second* (or second-semester) practicum experience. NOTE: A student may take HON 350 in the semester immediately following an practicum experience but not spaced further apart than that. For example, if a student engages in a practicum experience in the summer, he or she may take HON 350 in the subsequent fall semester but not the following spring.

COURSE STRUCTURE

HON 350 is a three-credit course that students complete online; students will work independently and submit assignments through Blackboard every other week during the semester.

COURSE READINGS

HON 350 does require students to purchase any course readings; however, a few course readings will be available to students as PDFs via Blackboard.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the internship and HON 350, students will be able to do the following:

- Draw connections between academic coursework and workplace skills to understand how the two inform one another
- Understand how the practicum experience influences future career goals and perspectives
- Reflect on leadership capacities and communication in the practicum environment
- Demonstrate writing skills, presentation skills, and "design" thinking through an ePortfolio
- Demonstrate the ways creativity and innovation relate to problem solving in workplaces

ASSIGNMENTS

Introductory Essay	10%
Bi-Weekly Assignments	40%
Problem-Posing Project	15%
Resume	10%
ePortfolio	25%

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Introductory Essay: For this assignment, expand on the information provided in your practicum application to the Mahurin Honors College. More specifically, provide details about the organization in which you'll intern, your supervisor's position, how he or she will supervise you, your specific duties and roles (if any), why you are suited for these duties and roles, how the practicum requires you to use knowledge/skills gained in your academic coursework at WKU, how the practicum connects with your future career goals, and how the practicum provides you any future opportunities, and how you expect to benefit from your work in this practicum (i.e., how it will specifically help you develop professionally).

Bi-Weekly Assignments: Every other week this semester, students will complete an assignment (submitted through Blackboard) that discusses and explores course readings and/or experiences derived from the practicum. These assignments may involve reflection, analysis, synthesis, or application of ideas. In most but not all cases, these assignments will contribute directly to students' ePortfolios.

Problem Posing Project: Students will develop a project that describes and explores the contours of a problem encountered during their internship that is central to their field of study or professional work environment. The project may also explore solutions to some degree but should focus more on how the problem is handled and approached than solved. It will be included in the ePortfolio.

Resume: Students will submit a professional resume during the second half of the semester. After feedback, students will revise and submit a final draft resume as part of the ePortfolio.

ePortfolio: By semester's end, students will complete a final ePortfolio that utilizes an online platform and ties all they learned during the practicum to their academic majors, career goals, and personal and professional development. This ePortfolio is organized to adhere to intended goals and an intended audience, it showcases evidence of work and development, it executes an integrated aesthetic, and it adheres to standards of usability and accessibility for 21st century users. The ePortfolio is the culmination of the semester's work and will develop throughout the semester.