

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

TOUR 241-001 — PRACTICUM (3 credits)
FALL 2015

DAY/TIME:	Variable	LOCATION:	Multiple Approved Settings
FACULTY SUPERVISOR:	Dr. Abena A. Aidoo	EMAIL ADDRESS:	aaidoo@gmu.edu
OFFICE LOCATION:	SciTech – BRH, RM. 228A	PHONE NUMBER:	703-993-9047
OFFICE HOURS:	SciTech: T: 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., OR By Appointment Fairfax: By Appointment	FAX NUMBER:	703-993-2025

PREREQUISITES: TOUR 200, TOUR 220, Sophomore Standing, and TOUR major status

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Provides 120 hours of introductory supervised professional fieldwork experience in an approved tourism, events, or hospitality management setting for 10 to 14 weeks (10 weeks maximum for the Summer term) under the supervision of a practicum Faculty Supervisor and Agency Supervisor. Includes meetings and assignments before, during, and after the practicum. Start date is the first day of classes.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The student is assigned tasks and responsibilities and is held responsible for their completion, as well as an associated portfolio where all activities are documented. Students are expected to complete a minimum of 120 hours over a period of 10 to 14 weeks. The number of weeks is abbreviated for summer experiences.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe and analyze the managerial and operational structure of their practicum site;
2. Demonstrate skills and competencies in routine business administration (e.g., accounting and record keeping, planning, public relations, assessments, staff relation);
3. Evaluate their personal strengths and weaknesses in light of demands and expectations of employment in the various positions in the field; and
4. Set career objectives in the tourism and event management industry.

REQUIRED READING

****Tourism and Events Management (TEM) Practicum Manual.**

*****All correspondence from the assigned Faculty Supervisor and the Internship Coordinator.**

RESPONSIBILITIES

Student responsibilities during the practicum

During the practicum, which involves a minimum of 120 hours, the student must meet certain responsibilities and obligations to the site and/or site supervisor, as well as to the university to fulfill their requirements. These include:

1. Reporting directly to the site supervisor for instructions. The practicum student is responsible for fulfilling their duties as stipulated by their supervisor, and for meeting their scheduled training commitments and arrangements;
2. Participating in orientation sessions with their site supervisor;
3. Familiarizing and abiding by all the rules, regulations, policies and procedures of the site applicable to their conduct while in the site's employment;
4. Becoming an integral and participating member of the site's staff;
5. Acting in a professional manner both as a site staff member and when dealing with the site's clientele. The student is a representative of GMU and an ambassador for the TEM program. A positive work experience effectively 'paves the way' for the future placement of other interns. It is therefore imperative that a cooperative attitude and good work record and habits be maintained for good rapport between the student, faculty supervisor and the Site;
6. Visiting, observing, and participating, as appropriate, in various levels of the site's operations, including meetings, programs, projects and training sessions. This enables the student to strive toward higher levels of personal and professional growth and fulfillment;
7. Meeting with the site supervisor and the faculty supervisor during a routine on-site visit of the latter to the site, if such a meeting is practicable; otherwise, the faculty supervisor may contact the site supervisor by phone or e-mail for feedback regarding the student's performance;
8. Notifying the site supervisor, and faculty supervisor, in advance when it is necessary to be absent from work;
9. Participating in post-practicum discussion with their site supervisor;
10. Completing the required portfolio, following the *Practicum Portfolio Guidelines* described in Appendix 7 of the Practicum Manual, and submitting it by the announced due date (given by the faculty supervisor);
11. **Meeting all requirements outlined in the Syllabus, Internship Manual, and through communication from faculty supervisor and internship coordinator;**
12. Sharing all Practicum requirements, including the site supervisor responsibilities outlined below, with their site supervisor; and
13. **Ensuring that they stay in constant communication with their University Supervisor by regularly checking their George Mason University e-mail accounts and Blackboard, and responding to requests in a timely manner.**

Site Supervisor responsibilities during the practicum

The site supervisor plays a pivotal role in the lives of students at the personal and professional career level by offering advice, instruction and supervision that furthers a student's professional competence. By providing a challenging and stimulating work experience, students are allowed to discover their own strengths and weaknesses in their chosen professional career. Thus, the site supervisor is expected to assume responsibilities and obligations to the student and the Faculty supervisor that foster learning and are in line with the Tourism and Event Management's practicum course requirements. These are summarized below:

1. Providing the student with a structured and supervised learning experience;
2. Preparing the site or institution staff for the arrival of the student, and orienting the student to the site's history (including organizational chart), philosophy, policies regulations, administration, programs and facilities in order to allow the student to function effectively in the practicum setting;

3. Providing timely and fair evaluative summaries of the student's work, including filling in a written *Final Practicum Performance Assessment Form*;
4. Immediately notifying the practicum faculty supervisor of any emerging condition that significantly affects the student's ability to succeed or complete the agreed upon practicum tasks;
5. Directly reimbursing the student for any costs they are authorized to incur on behalf of the site, or for reimbursable expenses identified in advance by the site; and
6. Accepting the student as a volunteer or paid member of staff (as applicable) and afford them all the rights and protections pertaining to that status.

Faculty Supervisor responsibilities during the practicum

1. Assisting the student to develop or acquire resources or skills necessary for the successful completion of assigned tasks;
2. Facilitating resolution of problems that may occur during the practicum between the student and the site;
3. Soliciting evaluative commentary and reports from the student and the site supervisor;
4. Receiving, reviewing, and evaluating required submissions from the student and site supervisor; and
5. Advising and assisting the site on matters pertaining to enrichment of the educational experience in the practicum.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

During their work experience, students must fulfill specific requirements, including completion of specified forms and assignments (*using the templates provided in the Practicum Manual Appendices, and made available on Blackboard*), in order to be evaluated and receive a grade for their practicum.

These include:

1. Attending the mandatory pre-experience Section information session (**this is in addition to the mandatory information session organized by the Internship Coordinator, which students must attend in order to be eligible to take the course – TOUR 241**).
2. Meeting with their faculty supervisor at the beginning of the experience to submit all properly filled out and signed paperwork, including the Experiential Learning Agreement, in a timely fashion, AND before the paperwork submission deadline, **Friday, September 25, 2015**:
 - An official job description must be provided to the faculty supervisor for approval **before any offer is accepted, AND before any paperwork is accepted**. Details on what should be included in the job description are found at the following link:
 - <http://rht.gmu.edu/assets/docs/rht/tem/What%20is%20an%20official%20job%20description.pdf>
 - **The Experiential Learning Agreement must be signed by the Dean's Office before the practicum can begin**. Students will be notified by their faculty supervisor once the Agreement has been signed *before they can begin their practicum*. **No hours completed before this notification can count towards the Practicum.**
3. Working at the **approved** practicum site for a minimum of 120 hours of professional practice - for between 10 hours/week and 20 hours/week, depending on when the practicum is begun. *Students may not work more than 40 hours/week without prior approval by faculty supervisor:*

- Students **cannot** complete their Practicum working from their homes.
 - Students must inform their faculty supervisor of their **exact start date**, and the estimated number of hours/week they will be working.
 - Students must notify their faculty supervisor, immediately if for any reason they are unable to work the stated number of hours/week, or work at all during a particular week:
 - As with any course, students will be required to provide documentation (such as a doctor's note) if they are unable to work during a particular week due to an illness.
 - This notification must be sent **before** the end of the applicable week.
 - **Please note the time taken to commute between students' dwelling and their sites cannot be counted as part of the hours worked in any given week.**
4. Completing the Practicum Weekly Report (Appendix 5), and **submitting them through the Assignments link on Blackboard**, no later than 11:59 p.m., on the Monday following the week in review, *using the template provided*.
 5. Completing the Practicum Midpoint Report (Appendix 6), immediately after 60 hours have been completed, and submitting it **via e-mail**, *using the template provided*.
 6. Completing the *Practicum Portfolio* (please follow the directions in Appendix 7), **which is due at the Final Roundtable Discussion** – *remember all information must be typed (may not apply to samples of work)*.
 7. Attending the **mandatory** Final Roundtable Discussion on **Friday, December 11, 2015**. *The exact time and location will be communicated via e-mail at a later date.*
 8. Submitting the *Final Practicum Performance Assessment Form* (Appendix 8) completed by site supervisors:
 - Students **must provide their site supervisors with the form to be completed**. This form may be sent directly by site supervisors to the student's faculty supervisor once it has been completed and signed, or can be included in students' portfolios.
 - Students must encourage their site supervisors to send the evaluation by the date of the Final Roundtable Discussion (**12/11/2015**), in order to meet grade submission deadlines.
 9. Meeting all requirements outlined in this **Syllabus**, the **Practicum Manual (including its Appendices)**, and **all** communication from your faculty supervisor and the internship coordinator:
 - Students are expected to regularly check their Mason e-mail, and required to use their Mason **e-mail address only** for all course-related communication.

FINAL EVALUATION

The Final Grade (*Satisfactory - S* OR *No Credit - NC*) will be based on the Faculty Supervisor's evaluation of the following:

1. Attendance to **mandatory** pre-experience meeting
 2. Submission of initial paperwork
 3. Completion of Hours (at least 120 hours) in the approved setting by deadline
 4. Completion and submission of Midpoint Report immediately after the 60th hour is reached
 5. Submission of site supervisor's Evaluation by deadline
 6. Submission of Practicum Portfolio – must meet all professionalism standards
 7. Attendance to **mandatory** Final Roundtable Discussion
 8. The timeliness and professionalism of **all** communication
 9. The overall timeliness and professionalism of **all** paperwork and the portfolio
 10. Meeting **all** other course requirements
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***** *Students' ability to pass this course depends on meeting all requirements as spelt out in this Syllabus, the Practicum Manual, and all communication from faculty supervisors and/or the internship coordinator, AND, doing so in a timely manner (by the due dates provided).***

Student Expectations

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism, please visit our website [See <http://rht.gmu.edu>].

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR: Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

CORE VALUES COMMITMENT: The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles.

