

## ***EOCS 2450 Practicum in Occupational Studies I***

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**Helen Hall**

Fall 2004

### **Course Outline**

**1 – 3 hours. Repeatable for maximum 3 hours credit. Non-traditional format: supervised experience in school or occupational setting.**

The purpose of the early field experiences is to have pre-service occupational studies majors in actual school settings prior to enrollment in the instructional strategies and curriculum courses and student teaching. The experience should answer fundamental questions for the students such as:

1. What are schools and classrooms like today? What goes on and who works in educational institutions?
2. Who are the students? How do I develop relationships with the many participants in the learning community?
3. How do I learn about and understand the practice of teaching, and how can I forge my own ongoing professional development?
4. Who will I be as a teacher?
5. How does educational theory relate to classroom practice?

These experiences will also help students learn about realities they will face in regard to how schools work as a community and as a part of the larger community as well as the complex and challenging work of teaching.

### **Objectives:**

1. Describe the characteristics of the classroom environment and atmosphere which promote student learning.
2. Identify teaching strategies used to actively involve students in their own learning.
3. Evaluate the use of questions to engage learners in higher order thinking.
4. Describe various ways in which students and learners interact in the classroom.
5. Identify methods and procedures used to motivate students.
6. Describe various assessment techniques used in the classroom.
7. Describe strategies for individualizing learning.
8. Describe how the teacher uses real-world situations to provide a context for student learning.
9. Explain the role of student organizations in the career and technical education program.
10. Reflect on your own strengths and abilities as a teacher.

### **Requirements:**

Field experiences should begin in the first semester of the sophomore year. While the stated goal for these courses is that the students will be placed in public school environments, the possibility exists of placing students in alternative settings which may be more appropriate for their educational and, thus, career goals. Two semester hours of credit will be earned as follows:

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| EBUS/ETES/EFCS | 1 Semester hour (45 clock hours) at a middle school                          |
| EBUS/ETES/EFCS | 1 Semester hour (45 clock hours) at a high school                            |
| EMKT           | 2 Semester hours (90 clock hours) at a high school spread over two semesters |

Those students whose early field experiences will be spent in a middle school and high school must select schools that are in two different school districts and with demographics as different as possible from the high schools from which they graduated. The reason for this requirement is so the student is able to observe classes in demographically different school settings in which they will probably find themselves when they graduate and enter the teaching profession.

The time you spend in the classroom must be spread over the entire semester, not clustered in one week. Your observations should also occur on varying day through the week. Always observing on Friday, for example, would provide a narrow view of what goes on throughout the week in the class/es you are observing!

1. Complete an **Observation Exercise** for 10 weeks spent observing, **Appendix A**. These guided observations are designed to assist you with understanding the application of theory to the classroom. Additionally, the exercises are designed to help you think about your own practice as a teacher so that your practice is informed by the theory.
2. A **journal** must be kept with an entry for each day you spend at school.
  - a. Initial entry should reflect on the learning climate the teacher has developed and the teacher's management style.
  - b. Entries should include your observation exercise for the week and notations regarding the class or classes you are observing, the focus of instruction for that day, and how the teacher interacts with students.
  - c. Provide some sense of how you feel and what you think about what you see going on in the classroom.
  - d. Observe the extent to which you see learning connected with the world outside the school. Is learning and evaluation contextualized?

Your journal may be kept in whatever format suits you best; however, handwriting must be legible! The journals must be submitted for review every three (3) weeks throughout each semester.

*The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

*University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy*

*All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.*

*The University of Georgia is committed to full inclusion of all students. Students who, by nature of a documented disability, require academic accommodations should contact the professor during office hours. Students may also speak with Disability Services at 542-8719 to discuss the process for requesting accommodations.*