

Extended Practicum Overview

Extended practicum is a period of extended and intensive field study experience. Teacher Candidates cannot receive credit for a university course taken during the practicum and should take a leave of absence from other employment during the time period. Outside work does not excuse Teacher Candidates from extended practicum requirements. Should outside work prevent Teacher Candidates from meeting expectations, it could contribute to calibration and possibly a withdrawal from the extended practicum. **Placements for the extended practicum occur within the province without preference given to particular urban locations except in very special circumstances (with financial responsibilities not considered as a substantive rationale for exceptions).**

Teacher Candidates will be placed in a school for sixteen weeks possibly with a cluster of other Teacher Candidates and their cooperating teachers, where they will work closely with the cooperating teacher(s) and extended practicum facilitator.

During this extended practicum, Teacher Candidates are expected to develop beginning-teacher professional competencies through working with their cooperating teacher(s) to help grade school students learn.

This collaborative work is intended to be holistic in nature, meaning that Teacher Candidates are encouraged to focus on finding a balance in their intellectual, physical, emotional and spiritual well-being when choosing and setting professional goals and in meeting the goals of the program.

Cooperating teachers and extended practicum facilitators will serve as trusted advisors and 'critical friends' who listen, support and help to analyze and solve problems.

When possible, clusters of interns and cooperating teachers can form a Professional Learning Community (PLC) in the school, which can also serve as an advisory group working together to enhance student learning.