



Practicum students, your cooperating teacher should be there

- to provide feedback on the unit you teach and
- to offer advice about the teaching process.

Other practicum students had these questions:

1. What is EDUC 473?

EDUC 473 (Inquiry into the Classroom Community) is a fall semester class that must be taken at the same time as ENGL 480 (The Teaching of English). EDUC 473 focuses on students' development and delivery of a Teacher Work Sample (TWS) in an assigned secondary classroom. These classes have replaced what used to be called Practicum I.

2. What is a Teacher Work Sample (TWS)?

A TWS is five to eight days of an integrated unit of lessons and assessments that are aligned with the Virginia Standards of Learning. The Longwood University TWS is built upon seven standards-based teaching practices: contextual factors, learning goals, assessment plan, design for instruction, instructional decision making, analysis of student learning, and reflection and self-evaluation.

3. Should I take my Practicum II first or the EDUC 473 class?

During your sophomore or junior summer you should take Practicum II, and then take EDUC 473 and EDUC 480 the next fall.

4. How much field work does the EDUC 473 class require?

The course requires 75 hours of fieldwork and functions as a practicum option in the social studies and English secondary programs. It should be noted that some of these 75 hours cannot simply be completed "an hour here, and an hour there." Your TWS unit, which will be 5-8 days in duration, will require a relatively uninterrupted span of time in the classroom to teach so you should try to keep either your mornings or your afternoons relatively free.

5. What would be the best way to schedule my semester for when I take EDUC 473?

Try to arrange class and work schedules so that you can leave your mornings OR afternoons relatively open so a block of consecutive days in an area classroom is manageable.

6. If this is supposed to replace Practicum I, why is this field placement a 75-hour requirement and why does it come after Practicum II (EDUC 370)?

The extra 15 hours of observation were added in order for practicum students to complete the TWS component of the class. The TWS was being done during student teaching, but it was simply too much work. EDUC 473 comes after Practicum II because it requires more experience and knowledge.

7. How is EDUC 473 different from EDUC 370 (Practicum I)?

While EDUC 370 requires 60 hours of observation only, EDUC 473 requires 75 hours of fieldwork, 5-8 days of instruction, as well as the completion of a TWS, and it provides a more authentic teaching experience because it is in the fall semester instead of during the summer months when schools are doing SOL testing and other end-of-the-year activities.

8. How are placements for EDUC 473 made?

The Office of Professional Services (OPS) will arrange this placement for you. Information about OPS and contact information can be found at <http://www.longwood.edu/professionalservices/>

Advice from current EDUC 473 students:

We strongly advise that you *do not* take this class during a heavy workload semester. For instance, we do not recommend taking this class while also taking ENGL 461: Literary Criticism or ENGL 400: Advanced Writing Seminar and/or working. This class and the placement are great practice for student teaching, and you should take this opportunity to focus on making the most of that experience.

Compiled by Emmilee Mizerak, November 2010