

**Texas A&M University-San Antonio**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**EDEC 4303 Practicum in Growth and Development**

**A. MAJOR COURSE DESCRIPTION / REQUIREMENT**

The focus of the beginning practicum course is to familiarize the student with authentic early childhood environments. By participating in the field-based setting, the student will acquire practical experience to support preparation for a career in early childhood. Students will learn how to implement culturally relevant and developmentally appropriate practices in the content areas of literacy, numeracy, the arts, health, science, social skills and adaptive learning for children from the ages of birth through age eight.

**B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Observe and document activities that encompass the physical, cognitive, social and emotional domains as well as adaptive/living skills.
2. Observe and document children's learning during individual, small and large group play-based activities, with sensitivity to individual and group needs.
3. Document children's experiences and learning in a format that can be shared with children, colleagues, and families. Documentation: observation log, anecdotal records, reflective journal
4. Identify one or more professional development goals, based on evaluation of performance as an early childhood educator.-final reflection
5. Demonstrate understanding and respect for professional and ethical guidelines for early childhood educators.-questionnaire from mentoring teacher/supervisor
6. Plan and implement developmentally appropriate guided activities with children and families-Guided Exploration
7. Write weekly journals to reflect and evaluate teaching experiences, practice, and values in relation to NAEYC standards.-Journal

**C. RECOMMENDED READINGS**

Curtis, D., & Carter, M. (2013). *The art of awareness: how observation can transform your teaching*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Redleaf Press: St. Paul, MN

Sluss, D. (2014). *Supporting play in early childhood: environment, curriculum, assessment*. Cengage Learning: Stamford, CT

Additional reading on Blackboard

**D. ASSIGNMENTS**

1. Attend the site of the early childhood environment for a minimum of 45 hours.
2. Complete seven reflective journal with entries pertaining to experiences in practicum placement.
3. Write a sample Parent newsletter to make school/home connections.
4. Create a guided exploration (lessons or activities) and participate in the activity.

5. Develop a log of observations of an individual child in an early childhood setting that depicts play behaviors and represents his/her progress in the physical, cognitive, social and emotional domains.
6. Complete an anecdotal record of the observation of a child.
7. Complete and present a reflection of the Practicum experience that includes, reflective journal topics, observations and key take away ideas.

STANDARD 1: Child Development and Learning in

STANDARD 2: Family–Teacher Partnerships and Community

STANDARD 3: Child Observation, Documentation, and Assessment

STANDARD 4: Developmentally, Culturally, and Linguistically Appropriate Teaching

STANDARD 5: Knowledge, Application, and Integration of Academic Content in the Early Childhood Curriculum

STANDARD 6: Professionalism as an Early Childhood Educator

### **E. EVALUATION**

Students will be evaluated according to rubrics specific to each assignment.