



Faculty of Education
Graduate Studies
Program

07:754 Practicum in Research Methodologies

Course Description

Pre-requisites: 07.714 Introduction to Educational Research Methodologies OR permission of the Chair of Graduate Studies, and availability of a BU Faculty Supervisor.

Note: This course is considered sufficient to serve as the second required research course for students in thesis route.

This practicum is designed to provide graduate students with experience in and theoretical understandings of applied research methodologies through participation in ongoing research within the Faculty of Education or in partnership with research collaborators connected to the Faculty. The experience is intended to allow students the opportunity to explore research processes in authentic scholarly or professional settings.

Students will engage in research activities such as literature review, research design, data collection, data analysis, writing, and knowledge mobilization. The practicum supports the integration of methodological knowledge from coursework with hands-on research practice.

More about this course

The purpose of the Practicum is to provide opportunities for students to integrate theoretical frameworks discussed in coursework with practical experience in a research setting. Students benefit most when they are engaged in roles aligned with their professional goals and areas of specialization. Normally, the Practicum involves 72 contact hours and is supervised either directly by a BU Faculty Advisor (when the researcher is a Faculty member) or jointly by a Field Supervisor (when the researcher is external, possibly another Department or outside of Brandon University) and a Faculty Advisor from within the Faculty.

This practicum offers graduate students—both course-based and thesis-route—the opportunity to gain advanced preparation in research methodology. Research conducted by Faculty members often takes place in schools, community settings, or organizational contexts, using a wide range of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches. The practicum helps students apply methodological concepts from their coursework and develop the skills needed to conduct research both independently and collaboratively.

Foundational Learning Outcomes / Essential Learning

The foundational learning outcomes for this course will be developed by the student in consultation with their Faculty Advisor (and Field Supervisor, where applicable). General objectives include, but are not

limited to:

1. Reading and research into an area of interest within the student's specialization or within an area of methodological interest.
2. Application of knowledge from 07,714 Research Methodologies.

General Description of the Practicum

Practicum Procedures

1. **Initiation:** The student notifies the Graduate Studies Office of their intent to register for the Practicum in Research Methodology and is provided with a Practicum Supervision Form. They then meet with the Graduate Studies Chair to discuss potential supervisors and research opportunities.

If the practicum arises after a student has talked with a potential researcher, the student notifies the Graduate Studies Office of their intent to register for the Practicum with the specific researcher, and the office will send the Practicum Supervision Form to be completed and returned. The student will be asked to identify the researcher and the specific study on the form before it is returned to the office. In this case, the Graduate Studies Chair will contact the BU researcher to confirm that they have met with the student and to confirm that the researcher is prepared to act in the role of Faculty Advisor.

If the researcher identified by the student is from outside of BU, a meeting with the Graduate Studies Chair is essential. The student and the Graduate Studies Chair will need to identify a BU Faculty member who is willing to act as the Faculty Supervisor and confirm that the external researcher is willing to act in the role of mentor and to supervise the student in the 72-hour Practicum course.

[Practicum Supervision Forms](#) can be found on the Graduate Studies website.

2. **Advisor Identification:** If a researcher has not been identified by the student or if an external researcher has been identified, the Graduate Studies Chair will contact the student's home Department to see if any Faculty in that Department are willing to serve as a potential Faculty Advisor. If no one is available within the calendar proposed by the student, the Graduate Studies Chair will reach out to the other two Departments to see if they have anyone who is available to act in the role of Faculty Advisor. The practicum request will be reviewed at the next GEC meeting for approval and supervisor assignment.

If a BU researcher has been identified to conduct the Practicum, that person should be asked to be the Faculty Advisor. In this case, the researcher can fulfill both the role of the Faculty Advisor and the role of the Field Supervisor or can suggest, which role they would like to take and a person who could fulfill the second role. For example, if two researchers are working together on a study and a student chose to complete a Practicum by working on that study with them, they might choose to have one person fulfill each role.

If an external person has been identified as the researcher and no one within the Faculty is available to act as the Faculty Advisor, the Graduate Studies Chair can choose to work with the student to have the external researcher approved as the Faculty Advisor.

3. **Approval Conditions:** The Graduate Education Committee will approve the Practicum when,
- a Faculty member confirms their availability to accept the student for a 72 hour research practicum.
 - a suitable Field Supervisor can be identified who is able to mentor the student and communicate regularly with the Faculty Advisor.

4. **Preparatory Meeting:** Before the practicum begins, the student, Faculty Advisor, and, if applicable, the Field Supervisor will meet to review responsibilities, expectations, reporting schedules, and the final assessment process.

5. **Goal Setting:** The student will develop anticipated outcomes in consultation with the Faculty Advisor (and Field Supervisor, if applicable).

6. **Ongoing Engagement:** The student keeps a weekly logbook/reflexive journal and maintains regular communication with the Faculty Advisor and/or Field Supervisor.

7. **Final Assessment:** The Faculty Advisor submits a Pass/Fail grade when all practicum requirements have been met.

Required Elements to Begin the Practicum

1. **Coursework:** Students normally complete 07:714 before beginning the practicum.

2. **Professional Conduct:** Expectations for confidentiality, conduct, and research ethics will be reviewed with the student. Students will be required to submit a copy of their TCPS II Certificate to both their Faculty Advisor and the Field Supervisor (when applicable) before beginning the practicum activities.

Practicum Roles and Responsibilities

Student Responsibilities:

1. Develop and complete practicum goals in consultation with Faculty Advisor.
2. Complete documentation and ethics protocols.
3. Take direction from the Faculty Advisor and Field Supervisor (if applicable) when engaged with the research protocols.
4. Consult regularly with the Faculty Advisor and Field Supervisor.
5. Maintain a logbook documenting 72 hours with a corresponding reflective journal to document what they learned from each activity.
6. Complete Criminal Record and Child Abuse Registry checks if necessary for the research work that they will be engaged in during the practicum.

Faculty Advisor Responsibilities:

1. Meet with the student to identify goals and scheduling.
2. Communicate with Field Supervisor when applicable.
3. Provide feedback and support student to be successful.
4. Evaluate progress and submit final grade.

Field Supervisor Responsibilities (for external placements):

1. Orient the student to organizational policies.
2. Provide opportunities for research participation.
3. Give ongoing feedback.
4. Confirm completion of practicum hours.

Course Assignments

A weekly journal or learning log is required. Additional assignments will be determined in consultation with the Faculty Advisor and/or Field Supervisor and may include knowledge mobilization activities.

Course Grade

Practicum courses are graded on a Pass/Fail basis.

Academic dishonesty will result in a final grade of F-AD (Fail-Academic Dishonesty)
(refer to the Graduate Calendar, section 3.9: Academic Dishonesty and Misconduct)

Statement on Accommodation

Brandon University values diversity and inclusion, recognizing disability as an aspect of diversity. Our shared goal is to create learning environments that are accessible, equitable, and inclusive for all students. The Student Accessibility Services (SAS) office works with students who have permanent, chronic, or temporary disabilities. SAS will provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations. If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, vision, hearing, physical, medical, or temporary), you are invited to contact Student Accessibility Services to arrange a confidential discussion at (204) 727-9759 or email malyonm@brandonu.ca. If you are registered with SAS and have a letter requesting accommodations, you are encouraged to contact the instructor early in the term to discuss the accommodations outline in your letter. Additional information is available at the Student Accessibility Services website.

Personal Counselling Support

Positive well-being is highly correlated to learning and student success. Wellness is a combination of physical, social, spiritual and mental health. Personal Counsellors at Brandon University are dedicated to providing support to students' wellness, primarily their mental well-being, through prevention activities, early identification and timely interventions using a holistic lens.

Please contact the Personal Counsellors in the Student Services Department at 204-727-9737 or visit Room 102 A.E. McKenzie Building to make an appointment. There are crisis counselling appointments available daily.

If you believe that you or someone else is in imminent danger of harm call 911.

Sexualized Violence Education and Prevention Coordinator: 204-727-7498

24 hour crisis supports:

Over 18 years of age:

Mobile Crisis Unit

204-725-4411

Under 18 years of age:

Child and Adolescent Treatment Centre

204-578-2700

Klinic Sexual Assault Crisis Line: 1-888-292-7565

Appendix A: The Role of BU CARES in Supporting Practicum in Research Methodologies Placements

BU CARES is an applied research centre established in 2008 and housed in the Faculty of Education at Brandon University. BU CARES helps identify and answer research questions generated collaboratively with community partners, develop faculty and graduate student research capacity, facilitate connections between university researchers and community members, and promote research related to rural and Indigenous education.

For your practicum, the role of BU CARES will depend on the nature of the project. When the project is run through the Centre, the Director or other personnel in the Centre may be directly supervising either as Faculty Advisors or Field Supervisors. If there are multiple students conducting practicums at the same time, BU CARES may become a place for students to meet and discuss learning together. BU CARES may also organize a forum for knowledge mobilization or may include practicum students in ongoing podcasts, newsletters, social media, website, or speaker series. The Centre may display posters, infographics, or other visuals produced by practicum students in the Centre and/or on the website and social media streams.

For more information about current projects being run through the centre, please visit: www.bucares.ca.