

EDLM 492 - Library Media Practicum

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

(prepared by Sr. Lecturer – Leona Lindvig)

1. How will I get the hours?

This is always a challenge for a full time classroom teacher, but everyone seems to manage. Since everyone's situation is a little different, we try to be flexible. In short, it can be a challenge, but not insurmountable.

Some candidates are able to do their practicum in districts whose vacation time or spring break or beginning of the year or end of the year are different from those in their home district.

Some candidates use accumulated leave for release time during the school year to meet the 60 hours.

Sometimes candidates use their lunch hour, or their planning period, or snippets of time, such as 30 minutes before school or after school. Some principals have allowed the candidates to "take the library" when the librarian is absent (and hire a sub instead for the regular classroom). A limited number of hours could be spent on a weekend or vacation time project under the direction of the mentor librarian. Eight hours are allowed to attend professional conferences such as WLMA.

It is acceptable to spread the 60 hours over two school locations; it gives you additional perspective, and sometimes makes the scheduling easier.

2. I have the textbook for the required reading, but I am looking for some sort of direction. Do I just read the book cover to cover, is there any assignments to go along with the text....

The chapters of the book form the organization or outline for the discussion board topics. You can read them in any order, and then comment on what you have seen, experienced are doing or planning on that topic. You are expected to make at least "six substantive posts and reply to colleagues during the quarter". These should represent "regular" communication, not all at the last minute.

4. ***I don't think the district librarians are going to meet again before the end of the school year, so I'm not sure if I will be able to attend the "professional meeting". Would a staff meeting count?***

A staff meeting would not count. Attending professional meetings such as WLMA, is just another way to earn up to 8 hours of credit towards the 60 hours. They are not required. The activities listed on the Experience checklist on page 18 are NOT required. This is a gauge of the opportunities that you had during your particular library experience. These will vary with each person.

5. ***What are my options as far as setting up the practicum?***

It is typically done after completing the 2-4 courses. EDLM 492 is an arranged class for 2 credits. It involves 60 hours in a school library.

6. ***Would I have the possibility of completing it another year?***

Yes, you can complete it at a later time.

7. ***Should I wait until I have a solid place to set up a practicum before pursuing the endorsement program?*** No, I think that you should begin the endorsement courses that will help you be eligible for consideration for more jobs... Many of our candidates get library positions before completing the endorsement program.

8. ***Could I potentially work at one school in one district and set up the practicum at another school in a different district that has a different break schedule, during breaks?***

Yes, this is one of the best ways to complete your hours. It is also possible to do hours at more than one school, in fact, that is a good strategy because you are exposed to more situations and grade levels. It would be possible for you to do the bulk of your hours utilizing the opposing break times, but also log some hours in at your local school. Some candidates use their planning time, and then sometimes their principal will hire a sub for their classroom and they will take the library if the librarian has to be absent.

For other questions not addressed above, please contact Leona Lindvig at 509-963-1676 or lindvigl@cwu.edu.