

Bachelor of Education (BEd) FAQ

What important dates should I keep in mind?

- **Practicum Registration Deadlines** are as follows:

EDUC 1500 Fall Term- July 1st
EDUC 3500 Fall Term- May 10th
EDUC 4500 Fall or Winter Term- May 10th
EDUC 1500 Winter Term- November 1st
EDUC 2500 Winter Term- November 1st

- For **Course Drop Deadlines** and **Course Withdrawal Deadlines**, please view the [Academic Schedule](#). If you are contemplating adding/dropping or withdrawing from courses, remember to consult with a [Student Connect Centre Advisor](#) to discuss impact to course sequence and/or funding, if applicable

How do I request a practicum placement?

- The Practicum Request Form is emailed to registered (or waitlisted) students' **RD Polytech email account** on or after the registration deadline.
- Your RDPolytech (@rdpolytech.ca) account is not the same as your @rdpolyedu account!
- You will **not** receive notifications to your rdpolyedu account.
- The Practicum Request Form deadline will be provided in the email that you receive.
- All forms need to be submitted by the deadline to ensure that our office has enough time to properly prepare your placement arrangements. Forms that arrive late or incomplete will require students to drop the course and postpone practicum to a later term.
- Once practicum requests forms have been submitted. If changes are required, it may be necessary for you to defer your practicum to another term.

What checks are required for placement?

- [Click here](#) for information.

When are Bachelor of Education practicums/field experiences offered?

- See the timetable in your MyRDP account to confirm offerings or contact an academic advisor for more information.

What are the course/credit requirements for EDUC practicums?

- See the [Academic Planning Guides](#) or contact an academic advisor for more information.

What happens if I do not meet the GPA or course/credit requirements?

- You cannot complete practicum until these requirements are completed. You may need to register in your practicum in a different term than intended if you do not meet requirements.

Why do I need to request a practicum placement so early?

- Our practicum placement personnel work diligently to ensure that students have completed all the prerequisites, submitted the required documentation, and are placed in a suitable practicum location. We also work with a large number of practicum partners who require advance notice to be able to locate suitable practicum mentors.

Can I set up my own practicum placement?

- **NO! The placement process occurs at an institutional level; we do not accept placements arranged by students.** Our practicum placement personnel will work with our practicum partners to establish your placement. You can provide suggestions for practicum locations through the Practicum Request Form and we will do our best to accommodate. However, there is no guarantee that we will be able to accommodate all requests, due to limited placement availability and other unforeseen circumstances.

Can my practicum be in the same school where my children or other relatives are?

- We typically do **NOT** place students at a school where their children or other relatives attend. *This is to avoid the risk for bias/internal conflict that could result in the end of your practicum.* We are accountable to the government that we are unbiased in our assessment processes. Therefore, practicum needs to be as objective as possible. Although we know that a parent has the potential to be hired in a school where their child attends, we leave that to the administration of a school, and the Human Resources office of a School Division to decide.

Will I be required to travel?

- You will be asked to provide information related to travel in the Practicum Request Form. We will do our best to accommodate practicum requests based on proximity and transportation. Bachelor of Education students may be placed approximately 1 hour from where they will be living during practicum.

Is there flexibility in the day or time that I can attend practicum?

- EDUC 1500 and 2500 students must complete their placement hours on the days and times of their scheduled EDUC Laboratory. These dates and times have been pre-arranged with Schools/School Divisions. When students receive their placement information they may be able to negotiate with their placement small changes in the start and end times of their hours on their scheduled placement days to accommodate course conflicts, etc. as long as it does not impact their ability to complete their hours.
- EDUC 3500 and 4500 are full-time practicums. Students must complete their practicums on the designated days within the term.

Can my placement be in the same school as my previous placement(s)?

- EDUC 4500 should be at a different school than EDUC 3500, unless there are extenuating circumstances. This ensures that our students are exposed to a diverse and rich range of experiences in the K-12 setting during their professional practicums. A placement at a different school also provides our students with another set of references, which leads to a broader resume of experience.

When will I hear back about my placement?

- Students will be advised of their practicum placement 1-2 weeks before the placement start date. Flexibility with confirmation is required as the CEED Centre works with a large number of division partners to determine successful placements.

Can I apply for prior learning for my practicum?

- You may be able to apply for prior learning credit for EDUC 1500 and 2500. Contact the Recognition of Prior Learning Office at rpl@rdpolytech.ca for details.
- You are not eligible for prior learning credit for EDUC 3500 or 4500.

Who can I contact with questions about placement?

- RDP's Career Education and Experience Development (CEED) Centre is home to the Education Practicum Office. If you have questions about practicum courses or your upcoming placement, please email edpracticum@rdpolytech.ca. We are happy to assist, or refer you to the right source for information!