CHDV C203 Practicum/Field Experience
Cerro Coso Community College
Professor Fuller

Developing Professional Goals

This is a 50-point assignment due in the self-enrolled, pre-semester Practicum Preparation course.

Goals

Students will have:

- articulated professional goals for the semester, 2-years, and 10-years
- reflected on expectations for this course
- prepared for the initial planning meeting with the cooperating teacher

Introduction

The main purpose of the practicum experience is to gain professional teaching competence specifically in early education. The acquisition of skills allows the completion of training and new or continued employment. Specific objectives vary, but they generally are concerned with understanding children, planning and providing quality programs for children and families, acquiring technical teaching skills, and personal and professional development. Individual goals reflect each practicum student's idea of professional conduct and skill, and how each feels about the kind of teacher and person s/he would like to become.

You will begin your practicum placement by working to establish a collaborative and cordial relationship with your cooperating teacher. You will meet and exchange ideas and concerns; accept the suggestions, advice, and the supportive assistance s/he provides to aid your professional growth.

Becoming a reflective educator is another objective. Understanding family circumstances and discovering what parents want for their children's education are others. The primary concern of many practicum students is their personal goal of developing confidence in their teaching abilities.

Developing Professional Goals

You can tell your goal setting is not effective when...

- Your future is hazy and ill-defined, and you only WISH for things to be different
- You have daily successes, but LACK REAL PROGRESS in any one direction
- You never live up to your full potential because there’s never anything IMPORTANT enough for you to give 100%
- You believe that life could be better, but you’re just not sure how.
- However, when your goal setting is strong...

- Your future is bright and positive because you know precisely WHAT YOU WANT AND WHY
- You have CLEAR TARGETS to focus on and to guide each day's actions and commitments
- Your days and weeks build upon each other in a straight line, aiming toward new destinations – even GREATER than the last
- You never want ANYTHING because you put EVERYTHING into what you want
- You believe that life is INCREDIBLE because you are setting and achieving INCREDIBLE GOALS.

6 Elements of a Useful Goal

- SPECIFIC: Describes what you want to accomplish with as much detail as possible
- MEASURABLE: Describes your goal in terms that can clearly be evaluated
- CHALLENGING: Takes energy and discipline to accomplish
- REALISTIC: A goal you know you are actually capable of obtaining. You know you have the resources (time, money, energy, etc.) to accomplish the goal.
- STATED COMPLETION DATE: Breaks longer term goals into shorter pieces (objectives) and sets firm deadlines.
- ACTION PLANS: Breaks goals down into the actual steps that you will take. Assigns whose job it is to follow up on the progress and completion of each task.

Assignment

For this assignment, determine your professional goals for this semester and the next 2 and 10 years. Each category should have 3-5 goals that follow the **6 Elements of a Useful Goal**. Most important is the action plan that specifies the steps required to accomplish your goal.

Semester Goals: The semester goals should include at least 3 goals that are specific to what you want to learn or skills you want to develop while participating in the practicum placement with your cooperating teacher. These goals should be related to your long term goals and provide some guidance to your cooperating teacher about what areas you feel you need support in or skills you would like to develop in order to become a more effective and efficient teacher of young children. For example, you can have a goal about implementing an emergent curriculum, developing partnerships with families, developing behavior management skills, becoming more comfortable leading large or small group activities, etc. Saying that you want to be successful in this course is not an appropriate goal - the goals for the semester are not about this course, they are specific to the practicum placement. You will be sharing these goals with your cooperating teacher and they should offer guidance about the types of experiences you would like to have in the practicum placement.

Two-Year Goals: The two-year goals can be more general about where you see yourself in two years professionally, however, they should still be practical and grounded in your current experiences. Do you want to continue your education? Move up in

position? Open your own center? Work in a different program? These goals should specify how you plan to continue to develop your skills as a professional.

Ten-Year Goals: The ten-year goals are long term planning goals and more oriented towards ideals and dreams. Where do you see yourself in 10 years? Retired? Continuing your education? Owning and opening your own program? Becoming a program director, future mentor, community college professor?

Submission

This assignment can be submitted as 3 bulleted lists, semester goals, 2-year goals, and 10-year goals. For each goal (a minimum of 9 goals is expected, 3 for each list), be sure to include a description of the goal (including the specific goal, how it will be measured/completed) and an action plan of the steps needed to complete the goal.

Professional Writing

The assignment should follow APA guidelines including a cover page and appropriate headings. The formatting requirements include Sans-Serif Fonts (e.g., Verdana, Arial, Tahoma, Helvetica, Calibri), 12-point font or greater, double spaced with indented paragraphs (and no extra spaces between paragraphs), with 1" margins.

Grading

This assignment is graded using a Grading Rubric, available below the assignment directions. I suggest reviewing the Grading Rubric before submitting your assignment. If you have questions about your grade or the grading rubric, please contact me via Pronto, Canvas Inbox, or email (LFULLER@cerrocoso.edu) so I can clarify and provide more specific feedback.

This assignment is mostly about identifying what you would like to work on in the practicum placement this semester. I will be looking to see that you have at least three (3) areas you would like to focus on with a cooperating teacher. This will help you to talk to the cooperating teacher about the placement as well as reflect on your own teaching.