

Appendix C – Recognition of Prior Learning

CESD 3017 – Recognition of Prior Learning

An advanced standing (full credit) will be allowed for prior learning experience where a student can demonstrate that he/she has had an extensive supervised work experience in the CESD field and that his/her level of performance would be equivalent to or beyond the level of performance expected of students at the end of their third-year field placement.

Eligibility for prior learning experience requires the student to have a minimum of **two consecutive years of full-time paid/unpaid work experience in the CESD field (Approximately 3500 demonstrated hours)**. While the exemption provision recognizes previous work experience and prior learning, this process involves more than simply granting credit for work experience. The emphasis is on the students' ability to demonstrate an enhanced understanding of their previous work experience as it relates to the goals of the third-year field placement and the CESD curriculum.

To confirm eligibility students must contact the CESD Program Coordinator during the semester preceding the delivery of CESD 3017. It is advised that students commence the exemption process at 12 weeks prior to the winter semester to allow time for completion of assignments.

The Faculty Advisor is responsible for developing and evaluating the assignment listed below, in the format of a major paper. The assignments are designed to demonstrate mastery of the required knowledge, skills and practice.

A Field Placement Recognition of **Prior Learning Experience Application Package** must be compiled and submitted to the CESD Program Coordinator **before October 15** during the fall semester preceding the delivery of CESD 3017. This package must include:

The Prior Learning Experience Application Package must include:

- A letter of intent - a brief summary indicating how they meet or exceed the third-year placement course competencies.
- A resume - outlining all relevant work and volunteer experience including dates, hours, role and responsibilities.
- Two letters of reference - from individuals who have directly supervised the student's paid/unpaid work experience. The letters should outline details of activities, nature and length and confirmation of hours of supervision, qualifications and position of the supervisor with current contact information.
- Essay - a written assignment of 8-10 pages (double spaced, APA format) outlining your learning from the relevant work experience documented in your letter of intent, in relation to CESD theory, content, principles and practices. See Essay Guidelines and Learning Outcomes below.
- **Upon approval of Recognition of Prior Learning, students will be exempt from CESD 3017 practicum hours. Students will be expected to attend lab hours.**

Essay Guidelines /Learning Outcomes of Prior Learning Recognition:

The student must demonstrate:

- their experiential links between practice and CESD theoretical approaches (praxis), CESD principles, concepts, models of development etc.
- their experiential links between anti-oppressive practice and reflexivity in practice experience at micro, mezzo, and macro levels



- their experiential links specifically between advancing human rights, using advocacy and social justice skills, and working with marginalized populations, etc.
- any further experiential links and skill development applicable to CESD: proposal writing, project management, community engagement, strategic planning, etc.

All Recognition of Prior Learning documentation MUST BE completed and submitted no later than October 15.

Note: This is not an option for CESD 4016/4017. Options will be made available for Pre-Approved Spring/Summer Practicum Hours.