

# FES6940: Practicum in FES, Summer A/C 2017

## Syllabus

Course: Practicum

Course & Section: FES6940

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am – 2 pm

Prerequisites: Permission from Advisor and Director of Masters Programs

Material and Supply Fee: Based on project

Textbook: None

Software: N/A

Readings: N/A

### **Course Description:**

The field practicum experience course offers a unique opportunity to help you integrate academic learning from the disaster management curriculum in an applied setting. Please see below for options that you may choose for your field practicum experience.

The disaster management professional is expected to be able to continually keep up to date with best practices. This requires a demonstrated desire and ability to keep up to date as well as to critique and apply best practices in the development of preparation, planning, responding, recovering, and mitigating disasters. This capstone experience is designed to provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the program objectives and, in particular, the articulated desire and ability to use best practices. It is intended to provide integration of prior learning and to create a transferable knowledge and performance base. The course will provide you with the opportunity to participate in supervised disaster management work activities, or focused research, that provide experiential and research-based learning in the application and integration of the theory and skills acquired in earlier coursework.

### **Attendance:**

As arranged with Advisor. Requirements for attendance at place of practicum and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> (Links to an external site.)

**Course objective:**

At the completion of this course the student will be able to:

Demonstrate mastery of the MSFES program objectives.

Provide an illustration of expertise pursuant to applying for either promotion or a new emergency management position.

Demonstrate a professional code of ethics.

Demonstrate a personally active involvement with the emergency management community.

Access, evaluate, and implement knowledge gained from the research literature.

**Options for Field Practicum Experience**Expanded Role

For current emergency manager professionals: develop a new emergency management role within your current career that will provide you with a different perspective and expand your learning and comprehension of best practices of the emergency management field. This project and/or role cannot be a component of your assigned job duties.

Volunteer Work

Obtain a volunteer or intern position in an emergency management setting (example: local emergency management office, local Red Cross office, UF EM, County EM office, etc.). The appropriate number of hours to be spent in this position per week will be determined in conjunction with the field experience practicum instructor and the volunteer organization.

Research Project or Paper for publication

With permission of the MSFES Program Coordinator, a student may complete a research project focused on a topic in disaster management. The research project shall be a disaster management related project previously approved by the program coordinator. The student shall complete a paper that overviews the project upon completion of the project. The research paper, upon completion, should result in a paper suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal in emergency management or a closely related field.

1. Research paper requirements
2. Paper should be ready for submission to a peer-reviewed journal
3. Paper length should be 20-25 pages
4. Paper should have a minimum of 20-30 different reference citations
5. Paper should start with a research goal
6. Paper should include a literature review
7. Paper must be submitted a minimum of two week before the final class meeting to provide time for review and corrections.
8. Research Project
9. Project will be approved by program coordinator and practicum instructor

10. Project will be based upon an emergency management-related topic.

### **Field Journal**

The field journal will be based on the field experience, research project or research paper. Field journals should be submitted online to the professor every week through the discussion board. The field journal should include a log of activities for tracking progress and learning. Care must be taken to maintain confidentiality in the journals.

1. Format:
2. Hours of work
3. Learning goals

iii. Current progress, issues and accomplishments

1. Any problems encountered and how the problems were resolved
2. Review
3. Course meetings

Practicum instructor will determine when and how often the class will connect online to discuss progress. During these course meetings, each student will report his/her current progress, issues, problems, problems solved and areas for improvement.

### **III. Timeline, Goals and Objectives**

The timeline, goals and objectives will be part of the first assignment for students. These items will be posted on the discussion board for review by the practicum instructor and the other students in the course. These items will be utilized as the roadmap for the duration of the practicum experience. Adjustments may be made with the permission of the practicum instructor.

1. **Timeline:** At the beginning of the practicum, the student shall establish a realistic timeline for completion of goals and objectives of the practicum. Students in a volunteer service capacity, such as an internship at the Red Cross, will need to coordinate this with their practicum instructor and onsite supervisor. Students completing research projects should establish a timeline for accomplishing and completing goals and objectives.
2. **Goals and Objectives:** Within the first week of the course, the student will establish a list of goals and objectives that he/she wants to accomplish during the duration of the practicum.

### **Grading**

The final grade will be an S/U

Grading will be based on the field journal, participation in online discussions, quality and outcome of project, research and/or paper and other requirements as explained above.

**Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory:** Grades of S and U are the only grades awarded in courses numbered 6940 (Practicum).

A grade of S is equal to a C (2.0) or better. Grades earned under the S-U option do not carry grade point values and are not computed in the University of Florida grade point average. Courses with a grade of S will count as credits earned in a degree program. Such grades are included in your permanent academic record and are reflected on the transcript.

### **Accommodations:**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) ([Links to an external site.](#))) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Evaluations:**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu> ([Links to an external site.](#)). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/> ([Links](#)