

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

TOUR 241-003 — PRACTICUM (3 credits)  
SUMMER 2016

DAY/TIME:	Variable	LOCATION:	Multiple Approved Settings
FACULTY SUPERVISOR:	Dr. Abena A. Aidoo	EMAIL ADDRESS:	<a href="mailto:aaidoo@gmu.edu">aaidoo@gmu.edu</a>
OFFICE LOCATION:	SciTech – BRH, 228A	PHONE NUMBER:	703-993-9047
OFFICE HOURS:	SciTech: By Appointment Fairfax: By Appointment	FAX NUMBER:	703-993-2025

**PREREQUISITES:** TOUR 200, TOUR 220, Sophomore Standing, and TEM major status

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Provides 120 hours of introductory supervised professional fieldwork experience in an approved tourism, events, or hospitality management setting for 10 to 14 weeks (10 weeks maximum for the Summer term) under the supervision of a practicum Faculty Supervisor and Agency Supervisor. Includes meetings and assignments before, during, and after the practicum. Start date is the first day of classes.

#### **COURSE OVERVIEW**

The student is assigned tasks and responsibilities and is held responsible for their completion, as well as an associated portfolio where all activities are documented. Students are expected to complete a minimum of 120 hours over a period of 10 to 14 weeks. The number of weeks is abbreviated for summer experiences.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe and analyze the managerial and operational structure of their practicum site;
2. Demonstrate skills and competencies in routine business administration (e.g., accounting and record keeping, planning, public relations, assessments, staff relation);
3. Evaluate their personal strengths and weaknesses in light of demands and expectations of employment in the various positions in the field; and
4. Set career objectives in the tourism and event management industry.

#### **REQUIRED READING**

**\*\*Tourism and Events Management (TEM) Practicum Manual.**

**\*\*\*All correspondence from the assigned Faculty Supervisor and the Internship Coordinator.**

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

During their work experience, students must fulfill specific requirements, including completion of specified forms and assignments (*using the templates provided in the Practicum Manual Appendices, and made available on Blackboard*), in order to be evaluated and receive a grade for their practicum.

These include:

1. **Completing** the **mandatory** TOUR 241-003 Information Session on Blackboard (**this is in addition to the mandatory Online Orientation provided by the Internship Coordinator, which students had to complete in order to be eligible to take the course – TOUR 241**).

This Information Session will involve: a) reviewing the slides and notes of a presentation, b) completing a quiz based on the presentation, and c) receiving a Notice of Completion that will be generated once a student obtains a perfect score on the quiz (**the Notice of Completion must be printed out and included in your portfolio, as the last page**):

- A perfect score on the quiz, AND the resulting Notice of Completion, are required to successfully complete the orientation – four (4) attempts at the quiz will be provided.
  - Students **will not receive a grade** for this course unless they successfully complete this **mandatory** Information Session, by the deadline:
    - The deadline for the completion of the Information is ***Sunday, May 22, 2016***.
  - **Students are required to read through this Syllabus, and the Practicum Manual** (<http://rht.gmu.edu/assets/docs/rht/tem/TEM%20Practicum%20Manual.pdf>), before they begin their practicums.
  - Students must share the Student, Site Supervisor, and University Supervisor responsibilities, described in the Practicum Manual, with their Site Supervisors.
2. **Submitting** all properly filled out and signed paperwork, including the Experiential Learning Agreement, in a timely fashion, AND before the paperwork submission deadline, ***Tuesday, May 31, 2016***:
    - An official job description must be provided to Dr. Aidoo for approval **before any offer is accepted, AND before any paperwork will be accepted**. Details on what should be included in the job description are found at the following link:
      - <http://rht.gmu.edu/assets/docs/rht/tem/What%20is%20an%20official%20job%20description.pdf>;
    - All paperwork must be submitted in a Pdf format (**Appendices 3-5 together as one file, and Appendix 6 as a separate file**); and
    - **The Experiential Learning Agreement (Appendix 6) must be signed by the Dean's Office before the practicum can begin**. Students will be notified by Dr. Aidoo once the Agreement has been signed *before* they can begin their practicum. **No hours completed before this notification can count towards the Practicum.**
  3. **Working** at the **approved** practicum site for 120 hours of professional practice - for between 15 hours/week and 20 hours/week, depending on when the practicum is begun. ***Students may not***

***work more than 20 hours/week without prior approval by faculty supervisor:***

- Students **cannot** complete their Practicum working from their homes.
  - Students must inform their faculty supervisor of their **exact start date**, and the estimated number of hours/week they will be working, **before** they begin their practicums.
  - Students must notify their faculty supervisor, immediately, if for any reason they are unable to work the stated number of hours/week, or work at all during a particular week:
    - As with any course, students will be required to provide documentation (such as a doctor's note) if they are unable to work during a particular week due to an illness.
    - This notification must be sent **before** the end of the applicable week.
  - **Please note the time taken to commute between students' dwellings and their sites cannot be counted as part of the hours worked in any given week.**
4. **Completing** the Practicum Weekly Report (Appendix 7), and **submitting them through the Assignments link on Blackboard**, ***using the template provided***:
- The weekly report must cover the tasks, activities, and experiences of the **preceding** week.
  - **\*\*\*Once the weekly report covering the 120<sup>th</sup> hour has been submitted, no more weekly reports must be submitted**, even if a student continues to work at the site.
5. **Completing** the Practicum Midpoint Report (Appendix 8), immediately after 60 hours have been completed, and submitting it **via e-mail**, ***using the template provided***.
6. **Completing** the required 120 hours by the deadline, ***Thursday, July 28, 2016***.
7. **Completing** the *Practicum Portfolio* (please follow the directions in Appendix 9), **which is due at the Final Roundtable Discussion** – ***remember all information must be typed, including the labels for the tabs (this may not apply to samples of work)***.
8. **Attending** the **mandatory** Final Roundtable Discussion on ***Friday, July 29, 2016***. *The exact time and location will be communicated via e-mail at a later date.* **Failure to attend the Roundtable will lead to a failing grade for any student.**
9. **Submitting** the *Final Performance Evaluation Form* (Appendix 10) completed by site supervisors:
- Students **must provide their site supervisors with Appendix 10 to be completed**. The completed form may be sent directly by site supervisors to Dr. Aidoo once it has been signed and dated, or it can be included in students' portfolios.
  - Students must encourage their site supervisors to send the evaluation by the date of the Final Roundtable Discussion (and if not, **no later than *Wednesday, August 3, 2016***), in order to meet grade submission deadlines.
10. **Meeting** all requirements outlined in this **Syllabus**, the **Practicum Manual (including its**

**Appendices**), and **all** communication from Dr. Aidoo, and the Internship Coordinator:

- Students are expected to regularly check their Mason e-mail, and required to use their Mason **e-mail address only** for all course-related communication.

## FINAL EVALUATION

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**The Final Grade (*Satisfactory - S OR No Credit - NC*) will be based on the Faculty Supervisor's evaluation of the following:**

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1. Attendance to **mandatory** pre-experience meeting; OR Completion of **mandatory** Information Session.
  2. Submission of initial paperwork
  3. Completion of Hours (120 hours) in the approved setting by deadline
  4. Completion and submission of Midpoint Report immediately after the 60<sup>th</sup> hour is reached
  5. Submission of site supervisor's Evaluation by deadline
  6. Submission of Practicum Portfolio – must meet all professionalism standards
  7. Attendance to **mandatory** Final Roundtable Discussion
  8. The timeliness and professionalism of **all** communication
  9. The overall timeliness and professionalism of **all** paperwork and the portfolio
  10. Meeting **all** other course requirements
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**\*\*\* *Students' ability to pass this course depends on meeting all requirements as spelt out in this Syllabus, the Practicum Manual, and all communication from faculty supervisors and/or the internship coordinator, AND, doing so in a timely manner (by the due dates provided).***

## **Student Expectations**

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

## **Campus Resources**

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism, please visit our website [See <http://rht.gmu.edu>].

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR: Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

CORE VALUES COMMITMENT: The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles.

