

NEW COLLEGE FRANKLIN SENIOR PRACTICUM OVERVIEW

This document is intended as a guide to assist you in the steps of the Senior Practicum Course. Questions will undoubtedly arrive throughout the process. Please be quick to contact Paul Lemon when you need clarification or further information. Our desire is to work with you in this important and substantive step in your degree.

This is a Capstone Course designed to utilize, extend, and apply the things you have learned over the past three years. As such, you will be asked to connect your work to what you have studied and your vocation and to defend your Practicum in a public forum before a panel of faculty (and outside experts as needed) as a culmination of your time at New College.

Things to think about:

1. What is the purpose of your practicum topic?
2. How does this apply to your area of calling?
3. How is this an extension of what you have learned at New College?
4. What do you hope to learn through this process?
5. What will a “successful” practicum look like?
6. Is your idea substantive enough to fulfill the requirements of the practicum?
7. How does this idea intersect with the New College Franklin Institutional Objectives and Learning Outcomes?

Parts of the Practicum

1. Proposal Draft

This is the initial document in which you work through the various questions concerning your topic to get pre-approval of the practicum.

This is also where you request a faculty advisor.

The Dean’s Cabinet will review these proposals to assess their viability, scope, and content as well as the proposed advisor. The Cabinet will work with the student in finalizing the proposal and the faculty advisor.

2. Work with the Faculty Advisor

This will include research/academic reading as well as progress on the actual practicum. In essence you are creating a syllabus for a course and the work and scope of the practicum needs to match the expectations of an academic course.

3. The practicum will be turned in with enough time for the faculty panel to review the work prior to the...

4. Public defense of the practicum.

Senior Practicum

2 Credits (0.5 credits per term)

NCF Coordinator: Paul Lemon

Three Options:

1. Thesis
2. Project
3. Internship

PRACTICUM OPTIONS

Thesis

The thesis is a 30–40 page paper (7500–10,000 words) in which the student:

1. identifies a problem or controversial issue within his/her area of interest,
2. crafts a hypothesis and proposes a solution to the problem or controversial issue,
3. using primary and secondary source resources, analyzes the problem and possible solutions through historical and biblical frameworks, and
4. defends the proposed solution.
5. The thesis topic must receive the approval of the Dean’s Cabinet prior to implementation.

The Thesis Document

1. Title Page
2. Abstract
3. Table of Contents
4. Introduction
 - a. Brief introduction to the context, identify the problem.
 - b. Briefly state the thesis.
5. Content
 - a. Restate the problem and give evidence to support your belief that this is a problem.
 - b. Identify the major views/solutions in relation to this problem and provide research, historical, and biblical-based analysis of these views.
 - c. Identify your solution and provide arguments for why you believe it is the best option. Identify potential weaknesses in your solution/argument.
 - d. Identify areas for additional study.
6. Conclusion
 - a. Briefly restate the problem, your solution, and the conclusions or implications you have reached because of your research.
7. Bibliography Page—Following the Chicago Manual of Style

Project/ Internship

Design a project/internship that builds on the student’s knowledge and experience gained at New College Franklin and focuses on an area of interest. The content/purpose of the project/internship shall be proposed by the student, but must meet the following requirements:

1. The content must demonstrate further growth in an area of interest,
2. The content must meet the institutional and learning outcomes (below),
3. The depth of content must be appropriate to a capstone experience:
 - a. Reading requirements include a minimum of 1,000 pages of academic research,
 - b. Students will spend a minimum of 150 hours to complete the project/internship and accompanying requirements and document these activities,
4. The project/internship must receive the approval of the Dean’s Cabinet prior to implementation.

The student will develop a syllabus, describing the practicum description, learning outcomes, learning resources/texts, and proposed schedule.

In addition, the student will write and submit a 10–12 page response paper, due in the Pascha term, in which he/she describes the nature of practicum, its goals, lessons learned as a result of the practicum, and areas of potential future research.

Deadlines

- September 1 – Submit proposal draft, including request for faculty advisor, to Deans cabinet
- October 1 – Submit final proposal
- December 1 – Progress report documenting significant progress
- March 1 – Progress documenting near completion of project
- April 1 – Project/ Internship completed, reflection paper started; rough draft of Thesis completed
- May 1 – Project/Internship and Response Paper complete and submitted; Thesis final draft completed
- Senior Practicum Defense during exam week

NEW COLLEGE FRANKLIN OBJECTIVES

MISSION STATEMENT

Under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, New College Franklin disciples students through the liberal arts for wisdom, virtue, and service.

CORE COMMITMENTS

Lordship of Christ, Unity of Truth, Faith & Practice

CORE VALUES

Wisdom, Discipleship, Mission

Each commitment is evaluated and implemented through the lens of the institutional values. All components are present in the Institutional Objectives and Learning Outcomes.

INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Lordship of Christ	Unity of Truth	Faith and Practice
Wisdom		
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. To submit all of learning, knowledge, institutional practice and identity to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to model that to our students.	Promote a vibrant, intellectual life that cherishes the liberal arts and which exhibits intellectual rigor and practical relevance.	Honor God and our religious heritage by applying the subject of our teaching and integrating it into the lives of students.
Lordship of Christ	Unity of Truth	Faith and Practice
Discipleship		
To use the liberal arts as a means to recover the “discarded image” of past eras in a manner that understands the connectedness of theology, learning, arts, and mission	To disciple students in the academic process through means of discussion-based learning, integration, and application that adapts to individual needs.	Mentor and walk with students to focus on their whole development—educating the heart, soul, and mind, for the growing and maturing of their faith and understanding.

Lordship of Christ	Unity of Truth	Faith and Practice
Mission		
To respect, encourage, and draw out the specific and individual calling that God has placed on each student's life.	Recruit and retain diverse faculty, staff, and student body that reflect the diversity of the Body of Christ while staying rooted to our Reformed tradition.	To develop within students and the collegiate community the desire to missionally live out what they learn in the classroom in real-world application as fruitful members of a local church.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Lordship of Christ	Unity of Truth	Faith and Practice
Wisdom		
Demonstrate knowledge of the decrees of God as executed in the work of providence in the progression of ideas, literature, and works through major epochs and periods of history.	Demonstrate knowledge of the decrees of God as executed in the works of creation as shown in the natural order expressed in the Quadrivium, art, music, and language.	Articulate the complex relationship between faith, learning, and practice.
Lordship of Christ	Unity of Truth	Faith and Practice
Discipleship		
Demonstrate academic expertise and proficiency in the liberal arts and engage in the process of academic discovery for the glory of God.	Recognize the connecting elements that unite all truth while respecting and exploring the diversity of application.	Develop and enact a compelling personal and professional vision that creates an environment for growth in virtue.
Lordship of Christ	Unity of Truth	Faith and Practice
Mission		
Practically apply the Word of God to all areas of life and learning with theological integrity by using Scripture as the ultimate authority in the education process.	Think critically and creatively, communicate clearly, and act with integrity.	Respond to the call to serve others. Demonstrate commitment to service and civic engagement. (Loving God and loving your neighbor.)