

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.

INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Wisdom | Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; therefore, the community of New College Franklin submits all learning, knowledge, institutional practice, and identity to the Lordship of Christ by analyzing all human knowledge through the framework of the Word of God and humbling ourselves before the Word.

Virtue | New College Franklin promotes a vibrant intellectual life that cherishes the liberal arts, academic rigor, and practical relevance by means of discussion-based learning which emphasizes reasoned and affective integration and application. New College Franklin focuses on the students' whole development—educating the heart, soul, and mind for growth and maturity in faith and understanding.

Service | New College Franklin seeks to develop within students and the collegiate community the desire and practice of honoring God and of living out in service what is learned in the classroom as fruitful members of a local church and community. Students enter here into the practice of Christian service, embracing their various roles and vocations for a lifetime of service here, at home, and unto the ends of the earth.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1 | Students will investigate the sovereign plan of God as executed in the progression of ideas and literature throughout major epochs of history and develop an appreciation of the past and its impact on present reality and future trends. (Moral Philosophy)

2 | Students will broaden their understanding of God through His works which display his beauty, order and wisdom, particularly through number, by investigating the nature of number (arithmetic), number in shape (Geometry), number in time (Harmonia), and number in space and time (Cosmology). (Quadrivium)

3 | Students will engage in the process of academic discovery, to value the deep and complex relationship between word and deed and construct meaningful conversations that are critical and creative, clearly communicated, and formulated with integrity. (Trivium)