

## Practicum Requirements

Thiel College hopes to engage our students in activities that build their appreciation for and participation in giving back to their community, becoming leaders, exploring their world, and adding their original work to the academy. The four categories described below are high-impact practices that can help students discover a vocation that aligns with their values and interest. These same practices can also substantially improve marketability for post-graduate employment. To that end, students are required to complete projects/experiences in two of the following Practicum areas prior to graduation.

Although students may fulfill these requirements through course work (for which they earn credit hours), they may also complete this portion of the Practicum Series without earning credit hours toward graduation. In most cases, a project must be approved in advance.

### STUDENTS:

#### Before you begin the project:

1. Obtain the correct Practicum application form from the relevant coordinator (listed below) or the website: <https://www.thiel.edu/academics/core-curriculum>.
2. Discuss your project idea with your advisor and the relevant coordinator to ensure that it is appropriate. *Scholarship* projects also require the approval of a faculty member in a related discipline before the coordinator will consider them.
3. Submit a completed pre-approval form (including a typed project description) to the coordinator. Your project description needs to include enough detail so that the coordinator can understand what you will do and determine how it relates to that practicum area. This will generally require between a paragraph and a page of text. Coordinators may reject poorly written or incomplete project descriptions and/or request a meeting to discuss your project prior to approval.

#### After you have approval:

4. Complete your project **and** then submit the 2-3 page reflective essay described on page 2 of the application forms. Typically, Practicum projects will be completed within the same semester in which they are approved, but exceptions may be allowed at the discretion of the coordinator.

#### **Citizenship:** Citizenship Coordinator -VPAA Dr. Liz Frombgen; 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Roth Hall Potential Projects:

1. Service-learning component within a Thiel course (traditionally arranged by the course instructor)
  - On-campus Example: Conducting a student satisfaction survey for a Communications class
  - Off-campus Example: Updating a company's HR manual for a Technical Writing class
2. Semester or Summer-long Projects (may be arranged with an on-campus or off-campus community-focused organization)
  - On-campus example: serve as a TLC academic coach and tutor for a fellow football player
  - Off-campus example: teach a Junior Achievement financial literacy class for elementary students
3. Intensive 1-2 week projects (May be arranged with an on-campus or off-campus community-focused organization)
  - On-campus example: serve as liaison/organizer of an event such as Thiel's Relay-for-Life or Night-to-Shine
  - Off-campus example: participate in a Habitat-for-Humanity or His Work, His Way building project

#### **Leadership:** Leadership Coordinator- VPAA Dr. Liz Frombgen; 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Roth Hall Potential Projects:

1. Internships over 3 credit hours (credit bearing) or the equivalent if non-credit bearing (> 50 hours)
2. Student Teaching Experience
3. Attendance at a recognized leadership conference
4. Successful completion of an approved campus leadership position

**Study Abroad/Study Away:** Study Abroad Coordinator - Dr. Cindy Sutton; Sociology department, Science 103B

Potential Projects:

1. Thiel Sponsored Study Abroad Program (typically 10 days or longer)
2. Student Developed Study Abroad Program (typically 10 days or longer)
3. Participation in the *Washington Semester*, off-campus research experience for undergraduates (REUs), or similar experience

**Scholarship:** Scholarship Coordinator –AADSS Dr. Greg Butcher; 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Roth Hall

Project must be original research, scholarship, or artistic work presented in a public forum beyond the normal classroom setting. A faculty member in a related academic department must approve scholarship projects before they will be considered by Dr. Butcher.

Potential venues for presentation of the scholarship:

1. Present at a national, state, or regional conference
2. Present at the fall DHI Student Research Symposium or the spring Undergraduate Research Day
4. Publish an article in an approved journal
5. Be featured in an art show