



LICENSED PRACTICUM



LICENSED MINISTER PRACTICUM PROGRAM

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PRACTICUM INTRODUCTION & INFORMATION

In fulfillment of the...
GENERAL COUNCIL PRACTICUM REQUIREMENTS FOR
PERSONS SEEKING MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS

Licensed Minister Practicum

Pre-Requisites:

- Identify and recruit the qualified pastor/mentor needed to complete the practicum requirements. This person must be approved by the ASOM Director & District Leadership.
- Complete the online practicum registration form on the ASOM website.
- After the student's registration has been approved, the Mentor Covenant form will be sent to the Pastor/Mentor. The Mentor must complete this form before the practicum begins.
- Pay the practicum fee of \$20.
- The ASOM Practicum experience requires a commitment of time.
 - Pastor/mentor & Student working relationship – 6 months (each level)
 - Student's Prayer Journal – 3 months (each level)
 - The Practicum time frame begins upon the receipt of the Practicum Registration. Practicums must be completed within one year from the date of submission.

Practicum Completion:

- At the end of the practicum, all completed forms, reports, and assignments must be mailed, emailed, or submitted online to the ASOM office before a final grade can be given.

Rewards/Achievements:

As a result of completing this practicum the student will achieve the following results:

- Meet the General Council of the Assemblies of God practicum requirements for the Licensed Minister level of credential.
- Develop significant relationships and knowledge of resources that will enhance their future ministry through practical learning projects.
- Be better equipped for effective, efficient, ethical and God honoring ministry.
- Develop clearer understanding of their personal gifts, abilities and areas needing further development.
- Develop personally, professionally, relationally and spiritually toward the high calling of “Christ likeness” in all they are and do.



PRACTICUM STRATEGY

In fulfillment of the...
GENERAL COUNCIL PRACTICUM REQUIREMENTS FOR
PERSONS SEEKING MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS

ASOM Statement of Purpose:

The Arizona District School of Ministry exists to provide training for those sensing a call to ministry, whether as credentialed ministers of the Assemblies of God, or as equipped leaders within the local church. ASOM seeks to promote a unified purpose for ministry within the Fellowship, providing doctrinal and practical instruction based upon common core values and shared ministry goals.

The leadership and faculty of ASOM fully subscribe to the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God and commit to proclaim and support the principles and policy of the Assemblies of God. ASOM commits itself to provide training courses that meet District and General Council educational requirements for ministerial credentials.

Furthermore, ASOM seeks to fulfill the mission of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God and is committed to the development of healthy leaders, churches and ministries.

Practicum Purpose/Mission:

The ASOM practicum strategy enables students to confirm God's call, develop the Christ like character, gain the competencies of ethical and effective ministry and develop the personal disciplines essential to successful life and ministry. The strategy uses guided "hands on" ministry experiences, interaction with qualified pastors/mentors, reading and the exercise of personal spiritual disciplines to accomplish its mission.

Practicum Objectives/Goals:

- Exposure to a variety of ministry methods, skills and practices.
- Develop effective people and conflict resolution skills.
- Establish ethical standards of ministry.
- Fulfill the Assemblies of God General Council practicum requirements.
- Minister effectively within the fellowship.
- Seek “best practice” experiences and exposure to effective ministry systems and structures.
- Help the student develop skills and gifts for maximum effectiveness in ministry.
- Help the student develop the disciplines of effective servant leadership.

Practicum Characteristics/Values:

- Student Value: Equip students for effective ministry.
- Student Participation: Students actively participate in the design and fulfillment of these standards and objectives.
- Cooperative Fellowship: Value ministry with the Assemblies of God in a way that faithfully fulfills the vision of a “voluntary cooperative fellowship”.
- Biblical Fidelity: Students develop ministry that is faithful to biblical teaching, values, principles and worldview.
- Flexibility: Students can “tailor” their practicum experience in ways that better meet their needs and fulfill the requirements.
- Encourage Development: Students value and develop the skills needed to pursue spiritual, personal and professional development throughout their life.

Practicum Standards, Structures and Procedures:

Overview: The ASOM practicum consists of 5 standards at each credential level. Each Standard contains three steps that enable the student to meet the standard and achieve the learning objective. The steps in each module are:

1. A “hands on” learning project.
2. Evaluation forms and written reports.
3. Interaction with Pastor/Mentor(s).

Standards:

The standards designated in this practicum strategy as “mandatory” are components of the credentialing requirement for the General Council of the Assemblies of God. As such they cannot be altered. To successfully complete their ASOM practicum, students MUST meet the objectives and follow the “steps to completion” for ALL FIVE standards at each credential level.

Credit for Ministry Experience:

Prospective credential holders who feel, based on previous training or ministerial experience that they have attained the competency described in a standard or standards may request, in writing, **“credit for ministry experience”**. The request must include a clear statement of how the standard has been met and documentation (if possible and appropriate).

Prospective credential holders seeking **“credit for ministry experience”** from some or all standards must submit their request to the ASOM Director PRIOR to the completion of their practicum. These requests will be reviewed by the ASOM Director as well as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God.

Pastor/Mentor Qualifications:

An appropriate and qualified mentor must...

1. Be Licensed or credentialed one level above the credential the student is seeking (except, of course, for ordination)
2. Not be a relative of the student.
3. Willingly follow the policies and guidelines of the ASOM practicum process.
4. Have demonstrated a proven ministry of cooperation & integrity.
5. Have a minimum of 5 years of pastoral experience.
- 6. Be approved by the ASOM Director and District Leadership.**
7. Willingly invest significant time in the student and practicum process.
8. Refuse to serve as a mentor in those areas in which they lack the expertise or if their involvement is not in the best interest of the student.
9. Refer the student to others who have greater expertise in areas when it is in the best interest of the student.

10. Willingly complete and submit the required ASOM forms & reports to the ASOM Director at the end of the 6 month practicum period.
11. Communicate concerns regarding the student or the practicum process with the ASOM Director.

An appropriate and qualified Pastor/Mentor also implements the **EIGHT T'S FOR MENTORING SUCCESS** (by Jim Cathcart).

1. **TARGET** – Know where you want to go and why. There must be a clear goal toward which you direct your energies.
2. **TOOLS** – Get the necessary tools to do the job well. One of the greatest tools will be a bibliography of books written on the subject of each area.
3. **TRAINING** – Never stop reading and educating yourself in the work God has called you. Talent is enhanced by training.
4. **TIME** – Take enough time to do it right. Help people grow into the level of mastery they need for the job. Remember, you are taking time to train others.
5. **TRUTH** – Show those under you the ways that their performance fits into the whole picture. Those who only know how will almost always work for those who know why. The more you know, the higher you go.
6. **TRUST** – Give them room to grow. Trust them enough to allow them to exert initiative but not so much that you create great risk. Nothing advances until somebody does more than they have done before. And, no one does more than they have done before until someone trusts them and gives them room to grow.
7. **TRACKING** – Winners always know the score. Create a situation where they know at all times whether or not they are on track. Let them keep their own scorecard too. As said by Dr. Ken Blanchard, "Feedback is the breakfast of champions."
8. **TOUCH** – Celebrate victories. Help people learn from their failures and inspire them to grow. Everything worthwhile is done within the context of relationship. Without human touch, support and encouragement, there is no will to persist.

Selecting a Pastor/Mentor:

Prospective credential holders are to select an “appropriate and qualified” pastor/mentor who meets the standards outlined above. In addition the student is encouraged to:

1. Seek a pastor/mentor who exemplifies “best practice” in ministry.
2. Recognized that more than one pastor/mentor may be needed.
3. End the relationship if the pastor/mentor is unwilling or unable to commit the time needed, comply with ASOM standards, or fails to carry out other responsibilities.
4. Recognized that their pastor may not be the best pastor/mentor in all areas and seek their recommendation for someone who can better serve.
5. Develop a positive working relationship with ASOM and their pastors/mentors, based on mutual respect and passion for ministry.

Pastor/Mentor & Student Interaction:

1. The pastor/mentor and student are to meet together at the beginning of the practicum and plan a feasible working strategy to fulfill the requirements. Non-structured interactions between the pastor/mentor and student are strongly encouraged.
2. The pastor/mentor and student should meet and work together as close as their life schedules will allow during the practicum.
3. A minimum of one meeting for each standard is recommended. (5 in all)

Pastor/Mentor Evaluation:

Students are required to meet the standards and objectives stated in this practicum strategy. Students and mentors are to closely adhere to the process outlined in the “strategy to completion” section of each standard, which are designed to insure the value and integrity of the practicum process.

Pastors/mentors are to hold students to a high standard of compliance and performance. Pastors/mentors are to evaluate the student’s efforts in relation to the stated objective and determine whether the student’s work is “excellent”, “average” or “unacceptable”. Any student whose efforts are deemed “unacceptable” in any standard will not receive credit for the practicum.

Students whose efforts are deemed “unacceptable” are to meet with the pastor/mentor to identify concerns and design a plan to repeat or create an appropriate substitute learning project. Pastors/mentors are to notify the ASOM Director that the student’s work was deemed “unacceptable” and the steps they plan to take to help the student achieve an acceptable rating. The student may repeat the project as many times as needed.

The pastor/mentor is to submit a letter of not more than one page detailing their overall impression of the student’s capabilities and potential for ministry – identifying strengths, weaknesses and recommended improvements. This letter is to be submitted directly to the ASOM Director along with the final ***Pastor/Mentor Summary & Evaluation Reports, Student Summary Report and the Prayer Journal Summary Report.***

Pastors/mentors are to sign all report forms as indicated. Students may appeal any pastor/mentor decision to the ASOM Director.

Practicum Final Report

- Each student enrolled in the studentship will be responsible for filling out and submitting to their Pastor/Mentor his/her ***Student Summary Report, Prayer Journal Summaries, One-Page Reports for Each Standard, and the Practicum Completion Checklist***. These student reports along with the ***Pastor/Mentor Summary Report & Student Evaluation*** will be mailed, emailed, or submitted online by the Pastor/Mentor to the ASOM Director at the conclusion of the 6 month practicum period.
- The Practicum Final Report will include:
 - Student Summary Report
 - Prayer Journal Summaries
 - Prayer/Mentor Summary Report
 - Practicum Evaluation by the Mentor
 - Pastor/Mentor letter
 - Student's one page reports for each standard
 - Practicum Completion Checklist



PRACTICUM REQUIREMENTS

In fulfillment of the...
GENERAL COUNCIL PRACTICUM REQUIREMENTS FOR
PERSONS SEEKING MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS

Licensed Minister

Requirements:

Standard 1: Church Administration

Objective: To gain competence in church administration by **one or more** of the following:

- **Attending, participating in, observing and evaluating** an appropriate church board meeting or portion of a board meeting.

Steps to Completion:

1. Seek an appropriate opportunity to fulfill the objective with the understanding and approval of the pastor/mentor, pastor and members of the board.
2. Review and discuss insights and questions regarding the nature and function of church boards with the pastor/mentor.
3. Complete a report (**1 page in length**) that explains how you observed a church board meeting, what you learned from the experience, and your opinions on how church board meetings could be improved in the future. **This report should be typed in Times New Roman 12 pt font with 1 inch margins.**

Standard 2: Biblical Counseling

Objective: To gain competence in biblical counseling by **one or more** of the following:

- **Planning, participating in OR observing and evaluating** a biblical counseling session under the guidance of a pastor/mentor.
- **Review and evaluate** an appropriate biblical counseling resource.

Steps to Completion:

1. Seek an appropriate opportunity to fulfill the objective with the pastor/mentor, pastor and those being counseled.
2. Review and discuss insights and questions regarding biblical counseling with the pastor/mentor.
3. Complete a report **(1 page in length)** that explains how you observed/participated in a biblical counseling session, what you learned from the experience, and how you could improve in the future. **OR** complete a report (1 page in length) that examines, evaluates, and identifies areas for improvement of the biblical counseling resource. **This report should be typed in Times New Roman 12 pt font with 1 inch margins.**

Standard 3: Personal Finance

Objective: To gain competence in personal finance by:

- **Preparing and evaluating** a personal family budget under the supervision of a qualified pastor/mentor.

Steps to Completion:

1. Set aside a time to review your personal finances (with spouse) and prepare a family budget for the coming year.
2. Review and discuss insights and questions regarding the minister's personal finances with the pastor/mentor.
3. Complete a report **(1 page in length)** that explains how you developed a personal budget, what you learned from the experience, and how you can improve in the area of personal budgeting and finances in the future. **This report should be typed in Times New Roman 12 pt font with 1 inch margins.**

Standard 4: Benevolence

Objective: To gain competence in benevolence ministries by all of the following:

- **Review** 2-4 benevolence agencies in your community.
- **Review** your church's benevolence policies, practices, record keeping and funding.
- **Review** benevolence ministries of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Steps to Completion:

1. Identify and visit the community's based benevolence and social services agencies and determine agencies to which you would refer a member of the congregation or other to work with or support. Review your church's benevolence policies, practices and funding. Review benevolence ministries of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
2. Review and discuss insights and questions with your pastor/mentor regarding your church's benevolence policies and practices and it's involvement with the community's benevolence or social service agencies and it's involvement with the General Council of the Assemblies of God benevolence ministries.
3. Complete a report **(1 page in length)** that explains what benevolence groups/policies you reviewed, what you learned from the experience, and ways in which your church could better support community benevolence or social service agencies and General Council of the Assemblies of God benevolence ministries. **This report should be typed in Times New Roman 12 pt font with 1 inch margins.**

Standard 5: Personal Spiritual Growth

Objective: To gain competence in the process of personal spiritual growth by:

- **Keeping a prayer and devotional journal** consistently for **three months** that includes: 1) Scriptures read, 2) Scriptural insights, 3) Prayer needs, 4) Answered prayer, 5) Insights gained from non-biblical reading, 6) Reflections on your personal spiritual growth including insights, challenges and victories.

Steps to Completion:

1. Set aside specific times for prayer, reading and devotions in order to fulfill this objective.
2. Review and discuss insights and questions with the pastor/mentor that grow out of your prayer and devotional life.
3. Complete a report **(1 page in length)** that explains how you personally kept a prayer journal, what you learned from the experience, and how you can improve in the future. **This report should be typed in Times New Roman 12 pt font with 1 inch margins.**

Practicum Final Report

- Each student enrolled in the Practicum will be responsible for filling out and submitting to their Pastor/Mentor his/her ***Student Summary Report, Prayer Journal Summaries, One-Page Reports for Each Standard, and the Practicum Completion Checklist***. These student reports along with the ***Pastor/Mentor Summary Report & Practicum Evaluation*** will be mailed, emailed, or submitted online by the Pastor/Mentor to the ASOM Director at the conclusion of the 6 month practicum period.
- The Practicum Final Report will include:
 - Student Summary Report
 - Prayer Journal Summaries
 - Prayer/Mentor Summary Report
 - Practicum Evaluation by the Mentor
 - Pastor/Mentor letter
 - Student's one page reports for each standard
 - Practicum Completion Checklist

ASOM's Expectations from a Mentor

The Arizona District and the General Council view the role of the Mentor as critical to the proper training of an aspiring minister of the Gospel. The Paul/Timothy model is an excellent example of the importance of such a relationship. Accordingly, we have established the following list of expectations for anyone who agrees to mentor a prospective credential holder:

1. Completion of the Mentor Covenant form agreeing to mentor the student through the 6- month Practicum that the Arizona District requires.
2. We recommend a minimum of at least 5 scheduled meetings where the prescribed Standards are discussed as outlined in the Practicum Manual.
3. Instruction and oversight of the student in the actual performance or participation in prescribed ministerial functions.
4. Submission of a 1-page final evaluation and report of the student's progress to the ASOM Director.



LICENSED MINISTRY PRACTICUM REPORT

Pastor/Mentor Summary

This page completed by the mentor.

As soon as the **six month practicum period** is completed with all required standards fulfilled, fill out this **Pastor/Mentor Summary report form** and return it along with the student's **Student Summary Report, Student Prayer Journal Summaries, Practicum Completion Checklist, Practicum Evaluation, One-Page Reports for Each Standard,** and **your Pastor/Mentor letter** to the ASOM Director.

Standard #1 Church Administration:

| Standard (one or more) | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| Observed & Evaluated a church board meeting with pastor/mentor | | |

Notes/Observations:

Standard #2 Biblical Counseling:

| Standard (one or more) | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| Conducted a counseling session under observation of mentor | | |
| Observed & evaluated a counseling session | | |
| Reviewed & evaluated biblical counseling resource | | |

Notes/Observations:

Pastor/Mentor monitoring counseling session: _____

Standard #3 Personal Finances:

| Standard | Yes | No |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----|
| Prepared a personal family budget | | |

Evaluated by: _____

Notes/Observations:

Standard #4 Benevolence

| Standard (all) | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| Review 2-4 benevolence agencies in the community | | |
| Reviewed & evaluated your church’s benevolence policies, practices, funding, etc. | | |
| Reviewed the benevolence ministries of the General Council of the Assemblies of God | | |

Notes/Observations:

Standard #5 Personal Spiritual Growth:

| Standard | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| Consistently kept a prayer and devotional journal for three months: | | |

Notes/Observations/Reflections:

Student’s Signature & Date

Mentor’s Signature & Date

LICENSED PRACTICUM EVALUATION

This page completed by the mentor.

Pastor/Mentor's Name _____ **Date** _____

Student's Name _____

In discussion with the student please rate their performance (excellent, average, unacceptable) in each standard, identify at least one strength, one weakness and one way the student could improve this area. Use and attach additional sheets as needed.

| Standard | Ex./Avg./Unacc. | Strength | Weakness | Improvement |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Church Administration | | | | |
| Biblical Counseling | | | | |
| Personal Finances | | | | |
| Benevolence | | | | |
| Personal Spiritual Growth | | | | |

Suitability for Ministry:

Submit a one-page letter of your overall impression of the student's capabilities and potential for ministry - identifying strengths, weaknesses and recommendations for improvement. This letter is to be submitted directly to the ASOM Director with all other report forms

*Pastor/Mentor, please fill out and return to:

ASOM % Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God

2601 E Thomas Rd. Ste 210

Phoenix, AZ 85016



LICENSED PRACTICUM EVALUATION

Student Summary Report

This page is to be completed by the student.

As soon as the **six month practicum period** is completed with all required standards fulfilled, fill out this **Pastor/Mentor Summary report form** and return it along with the student's **Student Summary Report, Student Prayer Journal Summaries, Practicum Completion Checklist, Practicum Evaluation, One-Page Reports for Each Standard,** and **your Pastor/Mentor letter** to the ASOM Director.

Standard #1 Church Administration:

| Standard (one or more) | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| Observed & Evaluated a church board meeting with pastor/mentor | | |

Notes/Observations:

Standard #2 Biblical Counseling:

| Standard (one or more) | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| Conducted a counseling session under observation of mentor | | |
| Observed & evaluated a counseling session | | |
| Reviewed & evaluated biblical counseling resource | | |

Notes/Observations:

Pastor/Mentor monitoring counseling session: _____

Standard #3 Personal Finances:

| Standard | Yes | No |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----|
| Prepared a personal family budget | | |

Evaluated by: _____

Notes/Observations:

Standard #4 Benevolence

| Standard (all) | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| Review 2-4 benevolence agencies in the community | | |
| Reviewed & evaluated your church's benevolence policies, practices, funding, etc. | | |
| Reviewed the benevolence ministries of the General Council of the Assemblies of God | | |

Notes/Observations:

Standard #5 Personal Spiritual Growth:

| Standard | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| Consistently kept a prayer and devotional journal for three months: | | |

Notes/Observations/Reflections:

Student's Signature & Date

Mentor's Signature & Date



LICENSED LEVEL PRACTICUM COMPLETION CHECKLIST

(Please note that this represents the bare minimum requirements; most students will find themselves doing more than is required on this checklist).

| Task | Date Completed | Student's Initials | Comments |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Mentor Meeting: Discuss Church Administration | | | |
| Completion of Standard 1 Report | | | |
| Mentor Meeting: Discuss Biblical Counseling | | | |
| Completion of Standard 2 Report | | | |
| Mentor Meeting: Discuss Personal Finances | | | |
| Completion of Standard 3 Report | | | |
| Mentor Meeting: Discuss Benevolence | | | |
| Completion of Standard 4 Report | | | |
| Mentor Meeting: Discuss Personal Spiritual Growth | | | |
| | | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Completion of Standard 5 Report | | | |
| Prayer Journal Summaries Completed | | | |
| Student Summary Report Completed | | | |