

Child Protection Practicum Competitive Application Process

Course Work Needed

Students who are interested in the Child Protection (CP) Specialization should discuss their interest with the CYC academic advisor at the end of year two of the degree. Students require all CYC core courses, in addition to SW 412(Child Protection Practice), and a CYC 410 Child Protection Practicum placement. SW 412 is typically offered once per year. This course should be successfully completed by the end of the semester prior to the practicum commencing to be eligible for a practicum placement in January, May, or September.

Application

The Child Protection practicum is a full-time block placement, requiring students to be fully present and resilient when working with complexity in a fast paced, high-pressure environment. Application for practicum is competitive and a CP practicum is not guaranteed. Placements are based on student suitability/fit and readiness and agency capacity, as determined by the CYC Practicum Committee. In the event a student is not selected for a child protection practicum, the CYC Practicum Coordinator will work with the student to find another suitable CYC practicum placement.

Faculty develop relationships with students over the course of the degree as students' strengths and developing areas emerge. Faculty in the CYC practicum committee will assess student readiness for the child protection practicum in collaboration with the student. Student demonstration of the criteria below within CYC classes and third year practicum inform decisions about a student's readiness for the Child Protection Practicum:

- Professional behaviour within classes and practicum
- Initiative and active participation in CYC classes and third year practicum
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Critical and reflexive thinking
- Reliability in attendance and completion of assignments on time
- Demonstrated ability to be resilient under pressure when adversity and complexity arises.

Application Process

- a. Declare your interest in the Child Protection Specialization with the BA CYC program academic advisor, Shannon Draney and discuss the requirements for this Specialization. The final deadline for declaring your specialization is February of your third year of CYC.
- b. Attend a meeting arranged by the CYC program in early spring with MCFD and Fraser Valley Aboriginal Child and Family Services. This meeting shares the details about the Child Protection practicum, including what to expect in the practicum. This meeting often helps you access whether it might be the right practicum for you.
- c. After meeting with the CYC Academic Advisor and attending the Child Protection meeting, send in your fourth-year practicum request form to the CYC practicum Coordinator and indicate your interest in the Child Protection Specialization. This will be reviewed in a subsequent CYC practicum committee.

- d. The Practicum Committee comprised of CYC Faculty and Practicum Coordinator will review your application, discuss observations of your readiness thought-out CYC classes and third year practicum, and a faculty will arrange a meeting with you to discuss if a Child Protection Practicum is a good fit at this point in your educational journey.
- e. If the Child protection practicum is determined to be an appropriate fit, students complete the next steps:
 - Put together a resume and cover letter targeted to the MCFD Field Education Consultant or the delegated Indigenous Child Protection Agency.
 - Attend a meeting/interview with the Field Education Consultant. This meeting will determine whether they will send you as a student for a second interview to the local MCFD or delegated agency office.
- f. A final interview is held at an individual MCFD or delegated agency office, and students who are selected are offered a Child Protection practicum.