

The IR Practicum Course (EDH 5941)

This IR Practicum course is the capstone course for the Certificate in Institutional Research. The purpose of this course is to use the theory and knowledge from your previous courses in the Certificate program to address a practical issue or problem in IR. The Practicum course creates the opportunity for students to use the IR skills and knowledge learned throughout the Certificate to do something new or different from experiences provided by their daily work responsibilities. Students may complete one (1) of the two (2) options listed below to fulfill the Practicum requirement:

Option 1

IR Project—The IR project is the most common option students have pursued in the past. The project may related to the student's current professional work or research, but must go beyond work that is already underway and incorporate fundamental concepts learned from participation in Certificate courses. Students will submit a final paper that identifies the problem, discusses some of the relevant literature related to the research question(s) proposed, and describes some of the data collection and analysis that will be done to address the question. Using an IR related activities (e.g., institutional, state, or national databases) is expected whenever possible. The project does not have to actually be completed during the course; in many cases, the paper serves as a proposal that students may use to initiate a new project or task. The final paper will be evaluated based on your understanding and application of the IR concepts covered in the curriculum.

Option 2

Internship—Internships are often used by students who have little IR experience or those who would like a completely new prescribed work experience. Students design the internship independently, including goals/objectives and finding a supervisor. At the end of the internship, students submit a paper detailing how they met their learning objectives and linking internship experiences to coursework. Forms for the internship are available through the 'Course Documents' link.

Prior to the start of the semester, students must contact the instructor to discuss their project proposal. The IR Practicum course is self-directed once the proposal has been approved. It is the responsibility of the student to have the project or internship or institute approved by the instructor and to stay on track throughout the semester. The course grade will be based on the completed project.

If you have any additional questions about the IR Practicum requirements, please contact the Program Coordinator at ircertificate@fsu.edu.