

Alternative Practicum Opportunity: Working with students with LD, ADHD, ASD, Depression, & Anxiety

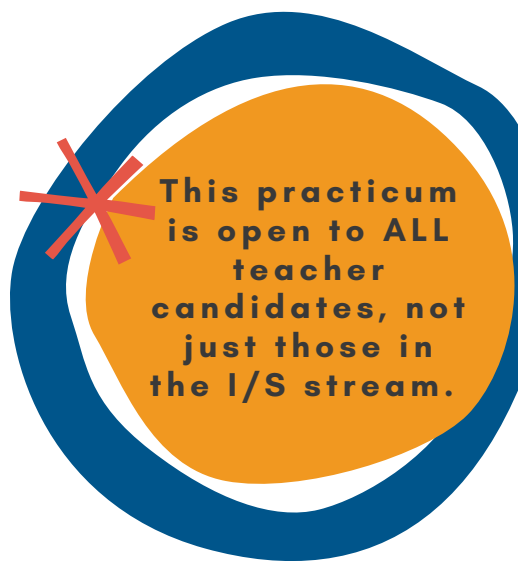
OLTS and STOMP are 2 transition programs that help local high school students with disabilities prepare for college and university. On-Line to Success (OLTS) is a transition program for students in Grades 11 and 12 with learning disabilities, ADHD and ASD. Successful Transitions Online and Mentoring Program (STOMP) is a similar transition program, geared towards students with mental health disorders.

Teacher candidates help facilitate these courses by helping to plan and run the Opening and Closing days, and by grading and moderating the students' work during the online work portion of the course. The majority of the placement takes places during the alt prac period. There is some training in January/February (during the class block), some online marking work in March and April, and the Closing Days in early June. **While there are several days that teacher candidates must attend in person, much of the practicum is online, and can be completed from anywhere, so long as you have internet access.**



Did you know the average Canadian classroom will have:

- One student with a learning disability
- One student with ADHD
- Every three years: one student with ASD
- Three to seven students with a mental health disorder



From former teacher candidates:

"This was a fantastic experience (truly)! I would absolutely recommend this alt prac to others."

"Phenomenal experience, it was empowering and inspiring."

"This is a great alternative practicum that provides experience in two really important areas of education: online learning and students with exceptionalities."



Why is this alternative practicum right for me?

Classrooms today are inclusive learning spaces, and all teachers should have experience working with students with learning disorders and mental health conditions. This practicum gives you direct experience working with teenagers with disabilities—giving you the chance to learn directly from the students and put your teaching skills into action!



When does the practicum take place?

This alt prac does not follow the traditional alt prac schedule, as there is some work done outside the alt prac period, and much of the work is done online. The schedule is as follows:

What	When
4-5 Training sessions (in-person)	January/February (approx. 2 hrs/week) during the class block
Planning & Opening Days (in-person, 8 hours/day)	The week of March Break & the week after
Grading student work and providing feedback (online)	Opening Days (March) to the end of April. Flexible schedule. A few hours per week.
Closing Days (in-person, approx. 8 hours/day)	2 days in early June

Please note that depending on the COVID-19 situation, some parts of the practicum may be altered to an online format if required.

Join this practicum and gain training and direct experience in working with youth with disabilities as they prepare to leave high school and start college and university.

If you are interested in this practicum opportunity, please contact Gillian Goldsmith, OLTS/STOMP Coordinator at gillian.goldsmith@queensu.ca

From former teacher candidates:

"It was a neat way to get to know students from a really different perspective. I'm glad I did it!"

"It's something you should do because it makes you a better teacher."

"I got so much information from being a part of this program, and it is a great experience to see how the students grow."

