An important component of library media certification is the practicum experience. The course L&I SCI 644 (Practicum) is a required element of the initial license program for school media certification. Students will complete 200 hours (3 credits) of school-based practicum. This practicum should be divided between two schools at two different levels (elementary, middle, high school). The School Library Media Coordinator will visit each of these two schools, observing the student working with a class, then conferencing with the site supervisor and student to assess the observed lesson and the practicum experience generally. When at all feasible, the practicum should be done in two different districts, one of which should be urban. This work should be done under the supervision of a library media specialist who has a 902 license and a minimum of three years experience.

Prerequisites: Students should plan their practicum as late in their programs as possible. At a minimum 511, 520, 571, and perhaps a technology course or two should have been completed before practicum is begun. It is desirable that 642 be taken concurrently or just before practicum.

Practicum site: The student chooses a practicum site, which is then approved by the School Library Media Coordinator. Assistance in choosing a site is available at student request. In addition to an experienced library media specialist with a 902 license, the site should ideally have:

- a fully-functioning library and information literacy program
- regular information skills instruction with students and staff
- instructional technology
- planning and collaboration with teachers
- interaction with administrators and with parents

Once the practicum arrangement is made, the student submits an application form (Fieldwork Placement Application) to the practicum coordinator for signature. SOIS then forwards a packet of items to the site supervisor including a copy of the Practicum Evaluation Rubric that will be used to evaluate the candidate. Before the placement begins, the SOIS coordinator will contact the supervising librarian (either in person or via a telephone or written correspondence) to provide guidance in the expectations for the practicum experience and the application of the Program Evaluation Rubric. An online practicum orientation presentation for site supervisors is also provided.

Preparation: Using the Practicum Checklist, the DPI Content Standards for the Initial License, and the Practicum Evaluation Rubric, the student plans for a practicum program that will provide optimal experience in target areas. The student portfolio will be reviewed with the library media program coordinator with the goal of identifying areas that will be addressed during practicum.

Assessment: The student will submit a work schedule at the start of the practicum experience plus periodic learning journals to the appropriate dropboxes on the 644 D2L site, as arranged between School Library Media Program Coordinator. A visit will be made to each site (elementary & secondary placements) by the Coordinator during which the student will be observed conducting a lesson, followed by a three-way consultation with the supervising librarian and student. The student will be expected to create some type of lesson aligned to accepted state or national standards, work samples, and a learning journal for inclusion in the portfolio. The supervising librarian will submit a written evaluation using the Practicum Evaluation Rubric, and the Coordinator will complete a written assessment of the observation and meeting. At the conclusion of the practicum experience, the student will write a 3-5 page paper summarizing and evaluating the practicum experience, referencing the DPI 902 standards. The student will also complete the post-practicum self-assessment, again using the Practicum Evaluation Rubric.

At the conclusion of the practicum, the coordinator will review the portfolio with the student to determine whether and to what degree goals were met. For more information, please see the Practicum FAQs on the SOIS website: http://www4.uwm.edu/sois/programs/graduate/librarymedia/practicumfaq.cfm There you will find additional, important information on completing a successful practicum.