

## Attendance on Practicum

During the practicum, you are expected to be  
**at your assigned school**  
for the **full school day**  
on **all scheduled practicum days**.

If you must be absent because of illness, bereavement or other compassionate circumstances,  
inform your Associate Teacher  
and the Teacher Education Office ([eduwo@uwo.ca](mailto:eduwo@uwo.ca)) immediately.

*Can I get permission to miss a day (or two days, or a few days) of practicum  
(for a really good reason such as my sister's wedding, an important game, out-of-town visitors, a family  
reunion in Texas)  
if I volunteer to make up those days at the end?*

If you are willing to accept full responsibility for your decision, you might choose to be absent for a reason  
other than illness, bereavement or other compassionate circumstances, or religious observance.

Perhaps your Associate Teacher will even say he or she doesn't mind if you miss a day.

**No one, however—no one in the Teacher Education Office, or the Associate Dean—will give you *permission*  
to be absent for any reason other than illness, bereavement or other compassionate circumstances, or  
religious observance.**

**When you are employed as a teacher these are the only reasons that will justify absence from school.  
All other absences are *unexcused* absences.**

### **What are the consequences of unexcused absences?**

The Faculty and Associate Teachers tend to draw conclusions about your integrity and commitment to  
teaching by your attitude towards attendance.

Absences for reasons other than illness, bereavement or other compassionate circumstances, or religious  
observance, are akin to voluntary withdrawal from the practicum and  
could be grounds for terminating the practicum.

Terminating a practicum placement because of unexcused absences constitutes an unsatisfactory  
practicum. The Manager of Field Experiences will review the circumstances surrounding unexcused  
absences with the Teacher Candidate and Practicum Consultant, if any. Progression will be determined on  
a case by case basis.

**School Closures:** If a school closes during the practicum (e.g., because of inclement weather), Teacher  
Candidates must follow the same guidelines about attendance as do other teachers at the school.  
Teacher Candidates are not considered absent from practicum if schools are closed.