KNES 441/443/445 – PRACTICUM COURSE

Practicum Position Title: Coach (Assistant)

# of Positions Available: 1

Industry/Company Description: Special Olympics Calgary provides sport and recreation programs year around for individuals with an intellectual disability on both competitive and non-competitive basis. www.specialolympicscalgary.ca

Location: Special Olympics Calgary, #14, 2180 Pegasus Way NE (for initial contact/interview)
Note: Travel is required to venues across the city. Must provide own transportation.

Required Hours: 60-72 hours per term (5-6 hours per week)

Academic Session: WINTER ONLY

Specified Schedule: The selected practicum student will work in one or two of the above-mentioned areas depending upon their athletic area of expertise. Hours are flexible.

Project Duties/Responsibilities: Under the direction of Program Head Coach, assist with the delivery of sport programs to athletes of various ability levels.

The student’s goal will be to enhance their understanding of the challenges and rewards associated with coaching individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Students will facilitate a group of up to 5 athletes with intellectual disabilities to provide athletic coaching by:
- Identifying the strengths and areas of improvement for each athlete
- Communicating with athletes with intellectual disabilities of all ages in order to effectively negotiate and facilitate their participation in a number of athletic programs such as soccer, swimming, floor hockey, basketball, bowling (5 and 10 pin), curling, track and field, golf, power lifting, skiing (alpine and cross country), softball, snowshoeing, rhythmic gymnastics and soccer.
  - Students will typically provide coaching in two of the above sports (3-hours each). The exact sport is dependent on the student’s specific interests and availability. The schedule of programs within Special Olympics Calgary also needs to be taken into consideration.
- Adjust the athletic program accordingly after obtaining approval from head coach
- Work closely with each individual to maximize their participation in their specific sport of choice.
- Record and monitor the progress of each athletes progress

Required Qualifications:
- Must have an ability and desire to communicate and encourage athletes with intellectual disabilities.
- Must have a knowledge of the rules and regulations of a variety of team sports as listed above
- Must be well-versed in safe practices for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

On-Site Supervisor:
Students must specify which sport is of interest to them by contacting Karen Hurley, Program Manager, directly at either karen@specialolympicscalgary.ca or 403-735-1022. Karen will help to coordinate practicum schedules with Head Coaches of specified sport (as indicated by student).