

Become a Certified Mediator



Serving as a mediator is extremely rewarding and challenging. For those with the proper skills and training, there are few professional opportunities as satisfying as helping people entrenched in conflict find mutually beneficial solutions. Although Washington State has not set forth licensing requirements for mediators, experts in the field of mediation and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) agree that mediators should complete a minimum number of training hours and supervised mediation hours prior to mediating professionally. To volunteer at the Volunteers of America Western Washington Dispute Resolution Center, that training and current certification are required.

Our Practicum leads to mediation certification

The Dispute Resolution Center offers a Practicum which provides a unique and valuable opportunity to gain this experience in a safe environment. This 1-2 year internship involves observing actual cases, passing a Professional Standards Mock Examination, and co-mediating with experienced mediators to hone your skills. The practicum leads to certification as a mediator practitioner and the requirements of the program meet the guidelines for becoming a member and certified mediator with the [Washington Mediation Association](#).

Practicum Internship: Questions and Answers

After reviewing the content below, if you have additional questions or need more information on this opportunity, please feel free to [email us](#) or call 425-339-1335 or 800-280-4770.

Q: How do I apply to the Program?

A: Completion of a 40-hour Basic Professional Mediation Training is required prior to applying to the Practicum, and candidates must also complete a 24 hour Family Mediation class prior to beginning their observations. If you complete the 40 hour class with us, an additional take home exam and an interview with staff will be required. If you complete the 40 hour class through another organization, an interview with staff and a mock mediation assessment will be required. Completion of the training and application to the practicum in no way ensures acceptance to the practicum.. The fee for our practicum is \$600 for students who complete their 40 hour training at this Dispute Resolution Center and \$1000 for students who are trained through another organization.

Q: How long will the program take to complete?

A: The program takes 12 -24 months to complete, depending on the individual's schedule.

Q: Why would it be helpful for one to become a mediator? Why would it be useful to go through the certificate program?

A: People who take our trainings learn how to understand and manage conflict in their lives and are able to help diffuse conflict among others, both in personal and professional arenas. We offer dispute resolution skills that can be used in everyday conflicts and in formal mediation settings. Our goal is to provide you with skills that will be useful when resolving conflict.

Q: How many hours a month will I set aside for the certificate program?

A: On average, 10-12 hours a month will be dedicated to the program. This time is spent either in trainings, mediations or other DRC Practicum events.

Q: What do people do with the certification? What kinds of careers are available within the field of mediation?

A: As the field of mediation continues to develop and become more mainstream in Washington, the job market continues to grow. The professionals who take our trainings such as lawyers, teachers, human resource professionals, and counselors often take the skills they have learned in our trainings back to their own professional fields.

Becoming a private professional mediator is also an option, though as in any private practice, marketing and developing clientele can often be complex and require a great deal of effort.