

Praxis Guidelines

For most praxis articles, the following main text sections should be included:

- **Introduction:** Briefly introduce the topic, its significance, and the purpose of the article.
- **Literature Review/Theoretical Background:** Detailed analysis or synthesis of existing research or theories.
- **Discussion/Analysis:** In-depth discussion and critical analysis of the reviewed literature or theoretical perspectives.
- **Implications for Practice:** Explanation of how the findings or arguments can be applied in practical settings.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize key points and suggest directions for future research or practice.

Article Types

Submissions can include, but are not limited to:

- **Literature Reviews:** Comprehensive overviews of existing research on a particular topic.
- **Theoretical Articles:** Proposals or critiques of theories, models, or frameworks.
- **Epistemological Explorations:** Lines of inquiry that provide alternative discussions to theories, models, or frameworks.
- **Methodological Papers:** Discussions of research methods or approaches.
- **Applied Research Reviews:** Analysis of how existing research can be applied in practical settings.
- **Case Studies:** Detailed examinations of specific instances using existing research and theories to explain or analyze the case (course, program, institutional context).

Here is a more in-depth explanation of each article type:

Literature Reviews

Definition: Literature reviews provide a comprehensive overview of existing research on a specific topic. These articles synthesize findings from multiple studies to identify trends, gaps, and overarching conclusions.

Purpose:

- To summarize the current state of knowledge on a topic.
- To identify areas where further research is needed.
- To highlight inconsistencies or debates within the literature.

Structure:

- **Introduction:** Define the topic and the scope of the review.
- **Body:** Organized by themes, trends, or chronological order, summarizing, and synthesizing key findings from the literature.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize key insights and suggest directions for future research.

Example: A literature review submission focused on the literature of community development frameworks that include higher education institutions as key stakeholders, demonstrating the gap in literature and suggesting the anchor institution framework approaches community development differently.

Theoretical Articles

Definition: Theoretical articles discuss and propose new theories or models, or critique and expand existing ones. These papers do not present original empirical data but focus on advancing theoretical understanding.

Purpose:

- To propose new conceptual frameworks or models.
- To refine, critique, or expand existing theories.
- To discuss the implications of theoretical advancements for practice or further research.

Structure:

- Introduction: Introduce the theoretical framework or problem.
- Literature Review: Provide background on existing theories or models.
- Theory Development: Present the new theory or modifications to existing theories.
- Discussion: Analyze the implications of the theory for research and practice.
- Conclusion: Summarize key contributions and suggest future research directions.

Example: A theoretical article submission provides a theory-building approach to how community engagement programs impact a student's social and economic mobility.

Epistemological/Ontological Explorations

Definition: Epistemological exploration articles will challenge traditional epistemological approaches and introduce other ways of knowing and doing, which may include *cultural, ethnic, and/or indigenous ways of knowing and doing*. They discuss and propose new lines of inquiry and explore alternative theories, frameworks, models, as well critique and expand existing ones. These papers focus on advancing new practices based on an enhanced epistemological/ontological understanding.

Purpose:

- To propose new conceptual frameworks or models of practice based on new ways of knowing/doing.
- To introduce new ways of knowing/doing rooted in cultural, ethnic, and/or indigenous frameworks or conceptual models
- To refine, critique, or expand existing theories, models, or frameworks
- To discuss the implications of theoretical advancements for practice or further research.

Structure:

- Introduction: Introduce the epistemological approach, presenting lines of inquiry.
- Literature Review: Provide background on existing theories or models of practice.
- Theory Development: Present the new approaches or modifications to existing theories.
- Discussion: Analyze the implications of the epistemological approach for research and practice.
- Conclusion: Discuss implications for practice and suggest future research directions.

Example: An epistemological/ontological exploration submission interrogates how the Italian conception of service and community engagement informs service-learning courses at an institution of higher education in Rome, Italy, compared to conceptions of engagement in the USA, establishing a cultural heuristic for approaching community engagement in through different cultures in international settings.

Methodological Papers

Definition: Methodological papers focus on research methods or approaches. They discuss the strengths, weaknesses, and applications of specific methodologies without presenting original research findings.

Purpose:

- To provide a detailed examination of specific research methods.
- To discuss the practical applications and limitations of methodologies.
- To propose improvements or innovations in research methods.

Structure:

- Introduction: Introduce the method and its relevance.
- Body: Detailed discussion of the method, including its development, application, and limitations.
- Discussion: Analyze how the method can be applied in various contexts and suggest potential improvements.
- Conclusion: Summarize key points and propose future methodological research.

Example: A methodological paper submission inquires into the methodology of a mixed methods study of community engagement, juxtaposing community-based participatory research approaches that more directly achieve results, leading to an innovative hybrid approach.

Applied Research Reviews

Definition: Applied research reviews analyze how existing research can be applied to practical settings. These articles bridge the gap between theory and practice by discussing the practical implications of research findings.

Purpose:

- To translate research findings into practical applications.
- To discuss the relevance of research for practitioners in the field.
- To provide recommendations for applying research to solve real-world problems.

Structure:

- Introduction: Define the practical problem and its significance.
- Literature Review: Summarize relevant research findings.
- Application: Discuss how the research can be applied in practical settings.
- Implications for Practice: Provide specific recommendations for practitioners.
- Conclusion: Summarize key applications and suggest areas for further research and practice.

Example: An applied research submission builds on the assessment and program evaluation data from multiple years of a community partnership program, indicating a problem of practice and exploring an intervention that positively impacts the practice, leading to recommendations for further research and implications for practice.

Case Studies

Definition: Case studies provide detailed examinations of specific instances, organizations, or events, using existing research and theories to explain or analyze the case. These articles offer in-depth insights into real-world applications of theoretical concepts through the lens of case (program, course, project, higher education structure, etc.).

Purpose:

- To illustrate the application of theories or concepts in real-world settings.
- To provide detailed analysis and insights into specific cases.
- To highlight best practices, challenges, and lessons learned.

Structure:

- Introduction: Introduce the case and its relevance.
- Case Description: Provide a detailed account of the case.
- Analysis: Apply relevant theories and research to analyze the case.
- Discussion: Discuss the implications of the case for theory and practice.
- Conclusion: Summarize key findings and suggest directions for future research and practice.

Example: A case study submission interrogates an academic program that connects students to community internships and partner networks to improve their social and economic mobility, demonstrating assessment and evaluation data indicating positive results, leading to a theory of practice transferable in other institutions of higher education.