

Health
Sciences

4900E



HEALTH PRACTICUM

Course Coordinator: Daniel Belliveau, Ph.D.

School of Health Studies
Faculty of Health Sciences

Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

2010

HS 4900E

HEALTH PRACTICUM

The prerequisite for this course includes enrolment in a Honors Specialization Module and permission of the School of Health Studies to enrol in this course. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

September 2010 to April 2011

COURSE OBJECTIVE

In this course, you will create and participate in a practicum in the areas of aging and independence, bioethics, health promotion in rural and urban areas, or other areas as appropriate. The practicum is developed together with the student, an on-site coordinator who provides direct supervision, and the practicum coordinator. As described below, your grade in this course is based on three components: creation of a learning contract, supervisor evaluation of your performance in the practicum, and a practicum paper.

Practicum Hours

Practicum hours are coordinated with the practicum site.

Course Antirequisites

Health Sciences 4910A/B, the former Health Sciences 409E or 419a/b are antirequisites of this course.

Course Materials

There is no textbook for the course. In preparing your practicum paper, you are responsible for developing an appropriate set of background readings.

COURSE ADMINISTRATION

COORDINATOR

Dr. Dan Belliveau
Health Sciences Building, room 218
Ext. 88235

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Thursday 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM OR by appointment

Due to the nature of research, there are times when unforeseen circumstances may prevent me from being present during scheduled office hours. I am always interested in hearing from students so feel free to contact me with some potential meetings times and I will respond with a mutually suitable date and time.

COURSE CONTACT

Course E-mail address: use the web site mail for course related questions. Anything of a sensitive nature may be addressed to the instructor's personal e-mail (dbellive@uwo.ca). Responses to inquiries via the web site email are sent to a mailbox on the web site and NOT to your personal account. Some external email services may encounter SPAM blocking or filtering. Important and timely information may not get to you if you are using another email service.

Web site address: <http://webct.uwo.ca>, Log onto WebCT OWL using your user name and password. You must be registered in this course to have access to the site and you must have an account established with UWO. *All course-related materials are delivered through WebCT OWL and all assignments are submitted through WebCT OWL.*

EVALUATION

Your grade in this course is based on creation of learning contract, supervisor evaluation of your performance in the practicum, and a practicum paper. The learning contract is worth **10** percent, the evaluation of your practicum performance is worth **30** percent, and the practicum paper is worth **60** percent of your final grade in the course. Each of these components will be evaluated using letter grade categories, as follows: A plus (92%), A (85%), B plus (78%), B minus (72%), C (65%), D (55%), F (45%).

GRADING: Learning Contract Due Date: October 18, 2010	10%	The student is responsible for submitting a <i>learning contract</i> that indicates the learning goals and objectives for the practicum created in consultation with the supervisor.
Supervisor Evaluation	30%	Supervisor will provide an evaluation of the students role in the practicum, their ability to meet deadlines and success at reaching the goals of the learning contract.
Practicum Paper Due Date: April 4, 2011	60%	The practicum paper will be in a format that provides a review of the field or discipline, the plan for the practicum and the resultant experiences.

The Learning Contract

The student is responsible for submitting a *learning contract* that indicates the learning goals and objectives for the practicum. The learning contract is developed in consultation with the practicum supervisor. In this course, the learning contract consists of the four components listed below:

1. *Learning objectives*, or goals, for your practicum experience.
2. *Learning resources* (e.g., activities, readings) that will be used to achieve the objectives.
3. An *action plan* that outlines what strategies you will use to accomplish the learning objectives.
4. *Evaluation* of the learning achieved. In the case of this course, the evaluation component is determined by the School of Health Studies (See Evaluation section above).

The Practicum Paper

The practicum paper should be approximately 4,500 words in length ($\pm 10\%$), double spaced, and printed using a font size no smaller than 12 points. Students are encouraged to use subheadings to identify the main sections of the paper. The paper should adhere to APA (5th Edition) style.

The practicum paper should include the following main sections:

- a. Introduction
 - Describe the Learning Objectives you identified in your Learning Contract.
- b. Background Literature
 - Review the scholarly literature relevant to your Learning Objectives.
- c. Practicum Experience
 - Discuss what you have learned from your practicum experience. In particular, assess the extent to which the background literature is reflected in your practicum experience?
- d. Conclusion
 - Conclude your paper by summarizing, in general terms, what you have learned as a Consequence of your practicum.
- e. References
 - The journal articles and other resources which you cite in your paper should be listed in APA format.

Evaluation Criteria for Practicum Paper

- a. Conceptualization
 - The degree to which the paper demonstrates a thorough understanding of relevant issues and concepts.
- b. Originality
 - The degree to which the paper reflects freshness of thought, provides insightful comment, or offers a novel perspective.
- c. Integration
 - The degree to which the focal aspects of the practicum experience are compared and contrasted with key ideas in the background literature.
- d. Quality of Writing
 - The degree to which the paper is free of spelling errors, typographical errors, grammatical errors, punctuation errors, and citation errors.

EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Student

- Develop a learning contract in consultation with the practicum supervisor.
- Participate in activities during the practicum, under direction of a practicum supervisor, in accord with the goals and objectives outlined in the learning contract.
- Prepare a practicum paper.

Practicum Supervisor (Community Partner)

- Arrange for a primary contact and continuous supervision of student during the practicum.
- Review and approve the student's Learning Contract.
- Work with the student to develop and implement a plan to achieve the learning objectives.
- Provide feedback to the practicum coordinator on the student's performance during the practicum.
- The co-ordinator will email the practicum supervisor toward the end of the practicum to obtain this feedback.

School of Health Studies

- Establish contact with Community Partner and assist with arrangements for the practicum, including establishment of an affiliation agreement with the University of Western Ontario.
- Maintain ongoing contact and act as a resource for the student and the Community Partner during the practicum.
- Evaluate the learning contract, evaluate the student's practicum performance based on feedback from the practicum supervisor, and evaluate the practicum paper.

ILLNESS

WESTERN MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION POLICY (Medical Notes)

In May, 2008, The University of Western Ontario's Senate approved a new medical note policy, which affects all students. The following is an outline of that policy. For more detailed information and forms, please visit <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>, and for further policy information please visit http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Documentation from Family Physicians and Walk-In Clinics: *A Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. An SMC* can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>. Hard copies are available from the student's home Faculty Academic Counselling Service.

Documentation from Student Health Services: Students obtaining documentation from Student Health Services should sign a "release of information." This form authorizes Student Health Services to provide information to the student's home Faculty. Release of information forms are available from, and can be arranged through, the student's home Faculty Academic Counselling Service.

Documentation from Hospital Urgent Care Centres or Emergency Departments: Students should request that an SMC* be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC* completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that his/her ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities was seriously affected.

*To print or see an example of the Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) please visit <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> and click on 'Student Medical Certificate.pdf'.

PLAGIARISM

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations.

CHEATING

The University of Western Ontario uses cheating analysis software to assess the validity of examinations written by students. Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. It is the onus of individual students to protect their written work and examination documents.

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.