

Health
Sciences

4910F



Western
HealthSciences

HEALTH PRACTICUM

Course Coordinator: Daniel Belliveau, Ph.D.

School of Health Studies
Faculty of Health Sciences

2012

HS 4910F

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 2012 to December 2012

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. On average, 6-8 hours per week are expected although this may vary substantially from week to week.

Course Antirequisites

Health Sciences 4900E, 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 221
Ext. 88235

OFFICE HOURS

Monday 1:30 – 4:00 OR by appointment

Due to the nature of the professoriate, 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). Please use your UWO email account for course-related communication. 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: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal> Log onto 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 OWL and all assignments are submitted through 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%**, the evaluation of your practicum performance is worth **30%**, and the practicum paper is worth **60%** of your final grade in the course.

GRADING: Learning Contract Due Date: October 1, 2012 12:00 noon via OWL	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: Dec. 3, 2012 12:00 noon via OWL	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. There may be specific and unique activities or outcomes that are specified by the practicum supervisor or project that could be outlined in this section. Otherwise, the evaluation will be determined as described above.

The Practicum Paper

The practicum paper should be approximately 2,500 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
 - o Describe the Learning Objectives you identified in your Learning Contract.
- b. Background Literature
 - o Review the scholarly literature relevant to your Learning Objectives.
- c. Practicum Experience
 - o 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
 - o Conclude your paper by summarizing, in general terms, what you have learned as a Consequence of your practicum.
- e. References
 - o The journal articles and other resources which you cite in your paper should be listed in APA format.

Not all practicum experiences will fit the described mode above. This is a general suggestion and works particularly well for practicum experiences where data/findings are collected and reflected upon. Please discuss with the course coordinator if you believe your project has a unique focus and could be more effectively written using a different approach.

Evaluation Criteria for Practicum Paper

- a. Conceptualization
 - o The degree to which the paper demonstrates a thorough understanding of relevant issues and concepts.
- b. Originality
 - o The degree to which the paper reflects freshness of thought, provides insightful comment, or offers a novel perspective.
- c. Integration
 - o 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
 - o 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.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at The University of Western Ontario, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF GRADES

Visit the website <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/english.pdf>

ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS OR NON-MEDICAL ABSENCES

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are

deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities.

A UWO 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>.

Documentation is required for non-medical absences where the course work missed is more than 10% of the overall grade. Students may contact their Faculty Academic Counselling Office for what documentation is needed. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner. Documentation for any request for accommodation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Academic Counselling Office of the student's Faculty of registration. For BHSc students, you may go to the School of Health Studies Office in HSB room 222.

SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

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 website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Additionally,

1. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).
2. 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.

SUPPORT SERVICES

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Student Development Centre -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>
2. Student Health -- <http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>