

Health
Sciences

4900E



Western
HealthSciences

HEALTH PRACTICUM

Course Coordinator: Sherri Preszcator

School of Health Studies
Faculty of Health Sciences

2014

HS 4900E

HEALTH PRACTICUM

The prerequisite for this course includes enrolment in an Honors Specialization Module and permission of the School of Health Studies to enroll in this course. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll 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 2014 to April 2015

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 and must be aligned with the content of the BHSc. module. 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 four components: creation of a learning contract, supervisor evaluation of your performance in the practicum, a research poster, and a practicum paper evaluated by the SHS course coordinator.

Practicum Hours

Practicum hours are coordinated with the practicum site. On average, 6-8 hours per week at the practicum site are expected although this may vary substantially from week to week for a minimum of 22 weeks on site.

Course Antirequisites

Health Sciences 4910F/G, 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

Sherri Preszcator
spreszc@uwo.ca

OFFICE HOURS

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 (spreszc@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.

Course 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, a research poster, and a practicum paper. The learning contract is worth **10%**, the evaluation of your practicum performance is worth **30%**, the research poster is worth **15%** and the practicum paper is worth **45%** of your final grade in the course.

Grading	Learning Contract Due Date: October 20, 2014 12:00 noon via OWL	10%	The student is responsible for submitting a <i>learning contract</i> to the course coordinator that indicates the learning goals and objectives for the practicum created in consultation with the supervisor
	Performance Evaluation Due Date: March 27, 2014 12:00 noon via OWL	30%	Based on the learning outcomes identified in the contract, student performance will be evaluated. Course coordinator will evaluate student by evaluating supervisor and student self-evaluations. 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. Students will provide a similar evaluation of their performance.
	Practicum Paper Due Date: April 7, 2015 12:00 noon via OWL	45%	The practicum paper will be in a format that provides a review of the independent project completed and how the student achieved their learning outcomes as identified in the learning contract.
	Poster Project Due March 6, 2015 12:00 noon via OWL	15%	Students will submit a poster suitable for presentation at the FHS Research Day highlighting the research project they have worked on during their practicum placement

The Learning Contract

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

1. *Learning objectives*, or goals, for your practicum experience. This will be aligned with health science course curriculum that aligns with the practicum experience ex. Program evaluation, Health communications identified by the SHS course coordinator.
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 of the independent project to be completed during the practicum.
4. *Evaluation* of the learning achieved. This is an optional section. There may be specific and unique activities or outcomes that are specified by the practicum supervisor or project (e.g. brochure, presentation, video) that could be outlined in this section. Otherwise, the evaluation will be determined as described above.

The learning contract will on average be about 500 words in length (2 pages) and should not exceed 1000 words (approximately 4 pages). This is designed to be a brief description of the plan of action for the developing project.

Performance Evaluation

Students and supervisors will submit an evaluation of the students on site performance. The practicum coordinator will evaluate the student performance based on outcome of the evaluations. Evaluations will be based on two main criteria:

- a. Success at meeting learning outcomes
- b. Job performance eg ability to meet deadlines, quality of work, attendance

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 and each section needs to reflect how the student achieved their learning outcomes:

- 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. Findings
 - o An opportunity to describe what was accomplished during the practicum, any observations or advancements made in the field
- d. Discussion
 - o An opportunity to place your practicum experience and findings in the context of the field of study and comment upon any impact upon current practice
- e. Conclusion
 - o Conclude your paper by summarizing, in general terms, what you have learned as a Consequence of your practicum.
- f. References
 - o The journal articles and other resources which you cite in your paper should be listed in APA format.

- g. 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? This is a short summative section of the experience and not a large component of the paper.

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. Please also note this is to be a scholarly report and therefore the majority of the report needs to reflect the learning outcomes from the independent project as opposed to the reflective section on the practicum experience. The report will be written in third person EXCEPT for the reflective section on the practicum experience, which will be written in first person.

Evaluation Criteria for Practicum Paper

- a. Conceptualization (~ 20% of grade)
 - o The degree to which the paper demonstrates a thorough understanding of relevant issues and concepts.
- b. Originality (~ 25% of grade)
 - o The degree to which the paper reflects freshness of thought, provides insightful comment, or offers a novel perspective.
- c. Integration (~ 25% of grade)
 - 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 (~ 30% of grade)
 - o The degree to which the paper is free of spelling errors, typographical errors, grammatical errors, punctuation errors, and citation errors.

The Research Poster

Your research poster will be a visual overview or summary of a research project you have conducted in order to share the knowledge gained from your project and must be suitable for presentation at the FHS Research Day. Your poster will summarize the work you have done and the results achieved. Your poster should focus on the most important information, or highlights, of the project:

- a. What was the research question(s) addressed by the project? This could include a sentence about the background, i.e., why this needed to be researched.
- b. Who conducted this research? When and where was the project done and who was involved (both as researchers and as research subjects)?
- c. How was the research done, i.e., what was the methodology? Was data collected through a survey? Through observation? Experiments?
- d. What data was collected? What did the researcher(s) learn from the data (i.e., analysis)?
- e. What did the researcher(s) conclude? Did it answer the research question(s)? (This also may include identification of areas in which further research is needed.)

The Research poster should include:

- Title: project title
- Authors: your name, faculty advisor's name, names of collaborators, and department
- Purpose (or Objectives or Introduction)
- Methods
- Results or Findings
- Discussion
- Summary/conclusions
- Acknowledgments: include any sources of funding you received

Evaluation Criteria for the Research Poster:

- a. Is the research question and problem clear?
- b. Does the question/problem matter?
- c. Understanding is clear of what the author of the poster did (e.g., research design, methods)?
- d. Results of the study are clear?
- e. Was the "take away" clear?
- f. Poster Design, did the design of the poster add to or detract from communicating these things?

Posters will be presented at the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Day in March and will be evaluated by an internal review committee.

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, performance evaluation and research poster

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.
- Approve and evaluate the learning contract, evaluate the student's practicum performance based on feedback from the practicum supervisor, evaluate the practicum paper and evaluate the research poster.

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/>