



Western  
HealthSciences

Health  
Sciences

4910F

# HEALTH PRACTICUM

Course Coordinator: Daniel Belliveau, Ph.D.

School of Health Studies

Faculty of Health Sciences

2016

## 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 – December 2016*

### COURSE OBJECTIVE

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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 multiple components: creation of a learning contract, development of a research poster, 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

#### **Course Materials**

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

### COURSE ADMINISTRATION

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#### **COORDINATOR**

Dr. Dan Belliveau  
Health Sciences Building, room 222  
Ext. 88235

## COURSE SEMINAR HOUR

Experiential learning courses in the School of Health Studies share a one-hour seminar scheduled for:

**Wednesdays 4:30 – 5:20 PM in HSB 322 (HSB 9)**

Students enrolled in the course are *encouraged to attend and participate* in this seminar hour. There may not be a seminar scheduled for each week. Details regarding the agenda for the seminar hour can be found on the course website, OWL. This is your opportunity to bring questions related to course requirements, specific questions on the nature of your practicum or other relevant issues. At times when there is no scheduled event during the seminar hour, it will also be used as the course office hour should you have any questions about the course or its assignments.

## 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](mailto: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.

**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

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Your grade in this course is based on creation of learning contract, a research poster, supervisor evaluation of your performance in the practicum, participation and evaluation of the work of your peers and a practicum paper. The learning contract is worth **10%**, the practicum poster and presentation **20%**, the evaluation of your practicum performance is worth **25%**, and the practicum paper is worth **40%** of your final grade in the course.

<b>GRADING:</b>	Learning Contract <b>Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup> 2016</b> <b>12:00 noon via OWL</b>	<b>15%</b>	The student is responsible for submitting a learning contract to the course coordinator that indicates the learning goals and objectives for the practicum created in consultation with the supervisor.
	Practicum Poster <b>Wednesday November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016</b> <b>12:00 noon via OWL</b>	<b>10%</b>	Students will submit an e-poster suitable for presentation at a research conference highlighting the research program and progress they have accomplished during their practicum

		placement.
Poster Presentation <b>November 23, 30, December 7, 2016</b>	<b>10%</b>	Students will present their research posters to an audience of their peers. This will take place during seminar hours
Supervisor Evaluation <b>Request to supervisors will be sent by course coordinator by November 30<sup>th</sup> 2016</b>	<b>25%</b>	Based on the learning outcomes identified in the contract, the student's performance will be evaluated. Supervisors will provide an evaluation of the student's role in the practicum, their ability to meet deadlines and success at reaching the goals of the learning contract.
Practicum Paper <b>Wednesday December 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 12:00 noon via OWL</b>	<b>40%</b>	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.

### 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 following components:

1. *Learning objectives*, or goals, for your practicum experience. What are you going to learn? This should be aligned with your Health Science experiences based upon the program's curriculum and courses you have taken that will help with your experiential learning opportunity
2. *Learning resources* (e.g., activities, readings) that will be used to achieve the objectives of the experiential learning opportunity. How are you going to learn it? It is expected that you will have formulated a strong understanding of your area of study in the form of independent reading.
3. An *action plan* that outlines what strategies you will use to accomplish the learning objectives. What are you going to do to implement the learning objectives you have identified? This is related to how are you going to learn it but includes target timelines and specific intentions (develop a workshop, familiarize yourself with a database/software, shadow a provider/presenter, interview clients, etc).

The learning contract will **be about 500 words in length on average** (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. Given that the project takes place over the full academic year, it is possible that objectives may change. That is perfectly understandable and those changes should be documented by yourself and approved by your practicum supervisor.

### The Practicum Poster

Your practicum poster will be a visual overview or summary of your experiential learning experience and

project that you conducted. It is a mechanism to share the knowledge you gained with a peer group of equally-minded individuals. Your poster should be something that can be submitted to a research conference. The poster will focus on the most important or significant findings/experience of your practicum and highlight:

- What was the research question(s) addressed by the project? It is important to include some background on why this was important to pursue.
- Who conducted the project? When and where was this project done, who were involved (researchers and clients/patients). What was your target population?
- How was the research done (methodology)? Was data collected and if so how was it analyzed? What was learned from the data/observations?
- What can be concluded from your findings? Did it answer the originating question? This area of the poster may also identify areas that require further investigation.

Most research posters will include the following components although there may be some projects where a different approach would be appropriate. This can be discussed with the course coordinator. The basic elements of a poster include:

- Title: project title
- Authors: you, your supervisor, other collaborators (and in each case their institutional/organizational affiliation)
- Purpose: objective, research question, background
- Methodology
- Findings or results
- Discussion
- Conclusion/summary, potential future work/directions
- Acknowledgements: source of funding if appropriate, other supports outside of your immediate supervisor/organizational support

The course coordinator and course TA will evaluate the poster. You will present your research poster to an audience of your peers. The research poster presentations will be **10** minutes in duration; **7** minutes to present and **3** minutes for questions. These times are firmly monitored.

Both components will look for:

- Is the research question and problem clear?
- Does the question/problem matter?
- Understanding is clear of what the author of the poster did (e.g. research design and methodology)
- Results of the study are clear
- Was there an identified “take away” message?
- Poster design appropriate for the work and message

### **The Practicum Paper**

The practicum paper should be approximately 2,000 words in length ( $\pm 10\%$ ), not including references and title page, 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 (6<sup>th</sup> Edition; <http://www.apastyle.org/index.aspx>) 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. Findings/results
  - An opportunity to describe what was accomplished during the practicum, any observations or advancements made in the field
- d. Discussion
  - 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
  - Conclude the paper by summarizing, in general terms, the key impacts that the practicum has had or will have on the specific population
- f. References
  - The journal articles and other resources which you cite in your paper should be listed in APA format
- g. Practicum Experience (this is a separate component and need not be integrated into the practicum paper described above)
  - Discuss what you have learned from your practicum experience. In particular, assess the extent to which the experience is reflected in your growth as a Health Science student.
  - This is a personal reflection of your experience and not necessarily linked to the body of the paper. This section should comprise no more than 400 words of the total word count of the paper and will be the last section of the paper.

***Not all practicum experiences will fit the described model above.*** This is a general suggestion and works particularly well for practicum experiences where data/findings are collected and reflected upon or specific projects have been assigned. 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 (~ 20% of grade)
  - The degree to which the paper demonstrates a thorough understanding of relevant issues and concepts.
- b. Originality (~ 25% of grade)
  - The degree to which the paper reflects freshness of thought, provides insightful comment, or offers a novel perspective.
- c. Integration (~ 25% of grade)
  - 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)
  - The degree to which the paper is free of spelling errors, typographical errors, grammatical errors, punctuation errors, and citation errors.

## **EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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### **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 coordinator will contact the practicum supervisor toward the end of the practicum to obtain this feedback.

### **Course Coordinator, 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, poster and practicum paper. Evaluate the student's practicum performance based on feedback from the practicum supervisor

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

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### **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/pdf/board/code.pdf>.

### **ENGLISH PROFICIENCY FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF GRADES**

Visit the website [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/english.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf)

### **ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS OR NON-MEDICAL ABSENCES**

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg117.html>

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: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

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/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/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/>

2. Student Health – <http://www.uwo.ca/health/services/students/index.html>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>