

George Mason University
Department of Global and Community Health

GCH 799
Practicum in Public Health II
Syllabus

Summer 2008

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George Mason University
Department of Global and Community Health

Course Number: GCH 799

Course Title: Practicum in Public Health II (3:1:8)

Placement in Curriculum:

Requirement for Masters in Health Science International Health Concentration and International Health Certificate. The pre-requisite is Practicum I in International Health. Only students enrolled in the Masters of Health Science International Health Concentration and the International Health Certificate may enroll. Proposal of practicum experience and selection of practicum location and preceptor must be determined one semester prior to taking the practicum.

Catalog Description: Practicum II provides students with an in-depth supervised experience in an identified international health organization. The practicum will provide students the opportunity to complete a project related to an actual international health issue that is a focus within the organization.

Pre-requisite: Practicum I International Health, GCH 798.

Course Objectives: (The Student will)

1. Identify and complete projects related to the goals of the international health organization.
2. Collaborate with organizational personnel on current projects of the organization.
3. Engage in research/literature review which will contribute to current projects of the organization.
4. Complete all aspects of a selected project or identifiable part of a project relevant to the international goals of the health organization.
5. Apply knowledge accrued during Masters Program to project practicum.

Practicum Plan:

Practicum Assignment: Student, with faculty guidance, will be assigned to a preceptor in an international health organization. The faculty and preceptor direct student's practicum experiences in the organization in relation to the course objectives.

Practicum Requirements:

1. A total of 112 hours is required for student practicum experience in a given semester. A one credit seminar will be in concurrent with the practicum experience. A final evaluation conference with faculty and preceptor is required.
2. The practicum experience may be taken in one block of time (112 hour) with faculty approval and preceptor concurrence and must be arranged on semester prior to taking the practicum. Any student electing to fulfill the practicum experience outside of the U.S. will assume responsibility for all personal travel, per diem, health and safety connected to such a practicum.
3. A one page summary of proposed project must be submitted the semester prior to the practicum.

Paper:

Students are required to submit a paper (minimum of 5 pages). The paper can be a research paper, a literature review, or a technical paper that may benefit the international health organization. The paper should reflect the work of the assigned practicum organization.

If the paper is to be used for the international health organization, students must ensure that the paper submitted for the practicum course has sufficient background information so that the paper can be read by someone who is not familiar with that specific organization. Citations should follow APA style guidelines.

Journal:

A weekly e-mail journal will chronicle the students' 112 hours experience in the agency drawing on the agency programs mission and goals for guidance, site current literature or research which supports and explains expected outcomes of the agency programs, mission and goals

Project Summary:

The project summary is a critical evaluation of the experience and an assessment of its impact on the educational growth of the student. The critical evaluation should include connections between theory and practice; that is, a student must relate the experience to the literature previously reviewed in the annotated bibliography or practicum experience. The summary should be at least 5 pages long. Student should use citations and use APA style guidelines.

As part of the project summary students will be required to make a formal ten minute presentation to their international health colleagues. This presentation will be arranged with their advisor.

Teaching Strategies:

Seminar discussion based on actual practicum experiences, guest speakers as relevant to international organizations where students are assigned and student presentations of their projects.

Required Textbooks:

None required; Selected bibliography

Evaluation Methods:

Weekly Journal	30%
Research Paper	10%
Seminar participation/ Student Presentations	20%
Project Summary Paper	40%

“If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see Debbie Wyne and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.”