



**GCH 798
Practicum in Public Health I
Syllabus**

Fall 2009

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College of Health and Human Services**

George Mason University
Department of Global and Community Health

Course Number: GCH 798

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

Placement in Curriculum:

Requirement for Masters in Science in Global Health. It is a pre-requisite for Practicum II in International Health. Only students enrolled in the Masters in Science in Global 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 I provides students with supervised experience in an identified international health organization. Students will explore the structure functions and activities of the international health organization and understand its relationships to improving health from a global perspective.

Pre-or co requisite: Students must complete the core courses in the Masters of Global Health before taking this course. These courses include:
GCH 530 (Nutrition: A Global Perspective)
GCH 543 (Global Health: Trends and Policies)
GCH 590 (International Health Organizations)
GCH 597 (Biostatistics) or approved graduate-level statistics course
GCH 680 (International Research Ethics & Methods)
GCH 712 (Introduction to Epidemiology)

Course Objectives: (The Student will)

1. Examine the selected organizational structure of the health organization including the philosophy mission statement and goals of the organization.
2. Investigate how the organization is financed.
3. Analyze the role and impact of a variety of organizations in the international community.
4. Explain what health and education programs the organization sponsor and how those programs are implemented.
5. Analyze the programs and the roles of the health care providers, administrators and educators within a variety of selected organizations.

6. Complete a project which related to goals of the international health organization.
7. Apply knowledge accrued during Masters Program to project practicum.

Practicum Plan:

Practicum Assignment: Student, with faculty guidance, will be assigned to an 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 concurrent with the practicum. A final evaluation conference with faculty and preceptor is required.
2. The practicum experience may be taken in one block of time (112 hours) with faculty approval and preceptor concurrence. Practicum must be arranged one 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.

Annotated Bibliography:

Students are required to submit an annotated bibliography with a minimum of 10 annotated citations. Citations should come from scholarly papers including journal articles, books, book chapters, organization reports and published government documents. The citations should follow APA style guidelines. Annotations should include a two paragraph summary of written material and a critique.

The citations should reflect the work of the assigned practicum organization and have relevancy of the citation reported in weekly email journals. The annotated bibliography will assist in the preparation of the project summary.

Journal:

A weekly e-mail journal will chronicle the students 112 hours experience. Details will be provided by the student on individuals they meet, their function, the scope of the organizations program, and how the programs are examples of the agency 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 ten 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, guest speakers and student presentations.

Required Textbooks:

None required; Selected bibliography

Evaluation Methods:

Journal	30%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Seminar participation/ Student presentation	20%
Issue paper/Project Summary	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.”