

Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge
PUBH 4550 –Practicum in Public Health
Course Outline – Spring 2017

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COURSE OVERVIEW

This is the consolidated practical course in the Faculty of Health Sciences Public Health degree. In this course, students will engage full-time in a public health practice setting and, under the direction of a site preceptor, work to meet course objectives. This course will provide students the opportunity to work with organizations and community groups to address public health issues. Concepts of population health promotion, inter-sectoral collaboration, and partnerships will be explored through work in community settings. Students will focus on non-clinical skills and the development of core competencies for public health. In order to be successful, students must meet all course learning objectives, as well as demonstrate progress in the development of core competencies for public health in Canada (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2008).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In the context of their assigned practicum, and by the end of the consolidation experience, students will:

1. Demonstrate application of the core public health concepts, theoretical frameworks, and principles with a focus on population health, health promotion, disease and injury prevention, and health protection.
2. Identify public health issue(s) and demonstrate the ability to apply public health science/ health promotion strategies appropriate to a practice setting in addressing identified issues.
3. Apply ethical principles, and demonstrate ethical approaches to public health practice, and respect for persons and diversity.
4. Demonstrate effective communication, both oral and written, with clients (i.e. individuals, groups, and/or communities), professionals, and agencies while in the practice setting.

PREREQUISITES

Prior to registering for practicum (PUBH 4550), students must have met the following course requirements:

- Health Sciences 2003, Public Health 3000, Public Health 3420, and a minimum of 90.0 credit hours

PRACTICUM PERIOD

- The first day of practicum will be September 7, 2016. The last day is expected to end on or before December 16, 2016.
- Practicum hours are scheduled for Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm excluding a ½ hour lunch break (this equates to a 7.5 hrs/day, with two 15 min. coffee breaks counted as practicum hours). These hours may be adjusted as necessary to align with the Preceptor's schedule. *Any changes to the regularly scheduled practicum hours will need prior approval from the preceptor and must be communicated with the faculty advisor.*
- Students are expected to complete 37.5 hours per week (*excluding lunch breaks*). *A total of 487.5 practicum hours are required for completion of course requirements (equivalent to 13 weeks full-time at 7.5 hours per day).*
- Students are not required to work overtime, but may do so with permission of the Faculty Advisor when necessary to participate in key practice setting events.

- Students are not permitted to work on Stat Holidays or on days when the University is designated as closed.

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Public Health Agency of Canada. (2008). Core competencies for public health in Canada. *Release 1.0*. Retrieved from: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/php-ppsp/ccph-cesp/pdfs/cc-manual-eng090407.pdf>
2. Dempsey, C., Barttel-Kirk, B., Barry, M. M. & CompHP Project Partners (2011). The CompHP core competencies framework for health promotion handbook. *International Union of Health Promotion & Education*. Paris. Retrieved from: http://www.szu.cz/uploads/documents/czsp/nerovnosti/2011/5. CompHP_Core_Competencies_Framework_for_Health_Promotion_Handbook_revised.pdf

RECOMMENDED READINGS (APPLYING THEORY IN PRACTICE)

In addition to the recommended text listed below, the Faculty Advisor may post applicable resources in Moodle throughout the semester for student reference; students are expected to familiarize themselves with the available resources and utilize them to guide practice. Students are also encouraged to post and share information that they deem as being potentially helpful to their peers.

1. Green, J., Tones, K., Cross, R., & Woodall, J. (2015). *Health promotion: Planning and strategies*. (3rd ed.) Thousand Oaks: Sage.
2. McKenzie, J. F., Neiger, B. L., & Thackeray, R. (2012). *Planning, implementing and evaluating health promotion programs: A primer*. (6th ed.). Toronto: Pearson Benjamin Cummings.
3. Vollman, A. R., Anderson, E. T., & McFarlane, J. (2013). *Canadian community as partner: Theory & multidisciplinary practice*. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive credit for this course, the completion of the following course assignments is required:

- All Pre-Practicum Documents (these are discussed further in the Student Handbook and in the practicum orientation)
- Completion of Practicum Hours (487.5 in total)
- Draft and Final Practicum Guides (see Appendix II)
- Two Reflective Journals (see Appendix III)
- Scholarly Contribution/Project (see Appendix IV)
- Practicum Summary (Appendix V)
- Mid-way and Final Evaluations (Appendix VI)
- Student and Preceptor Evaluation (email for an online survey sent to students and preceptors at the end of the practicum experience)

Students are required to meet all of the required assignments according to the deadlines outlined in the Public Health Student Handbook and the Course Outline. Failure to meet the requirements for practicum may result in a delay in the practicum, or may result in the student being excluded from the practicum placement (see Public Health Student Handbook).

All Appendices can be found in the PUBH 4550 Moodle Course. When submitting assignments, please put your last name first then the assignment title. For example "Amson Practicum Guide".

IMPORTANT SEMESTER DATES

Jan 9	First day of Semester (and first day of practicum)
Feb 20-24	Reading Break – no practicum
April 14	Last day of Semester (final day of practicum)

ASSIGNMENT/COURSE REQUIREMENTS DEADLINES

Jan 27	Practicum Guide (draft version) submitted and reviewed by the Faculty Advisor
Jan 30	Scholarly Project identified; Practicum Guide (final version) submitted and approved by the Faculty Advisor
Feb 13	Reflective Journal #1
Feb 27- Mar 3	Midterm Evaluation Meeting (Faculty Advisor, Student, and Preceptor present)
March 20	Reflective Journal #2
April 14	Scholarly contribution completed & presented to Agency (if applicable)
April 3-7	Final evaluation meeting (Faculty Advisor, student, and Preceptor present)
April 21	All additional course requirements to be completed/submitted (i.e. practicum summary form; signed copies of the midterm and final evaluations; student release of scholarly property form, practicum evaluation survey)
TBA	Roundtable summary of practicum

**Please note that dates may be adjusted based on key practicum activities and in discussion with the Faculty Advisor*

GRADING

This course is evaluated on a pass/fail basis. Students will be evaluated by the Preceptor and the Faculty Advisor based on: (a) successful completion/submission of all course requirements and assignments; (b) completion of personal objectives as outlined in the Practicum Guide, with observable measures of success; and (c) completion and review of the Student Practicum Evaluation Tool. If, for some reason, all course requirements have not been completed by the last day of the semester, a grade of “incomplete” may be assigned until all required practicum hours and requirements have been successfully met.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all scheduled practicum days. The total required practicum hours must be completed for successful completion of the course (see the Public Health Student Handbook). Absence can jeopardize the student’s ability to meet course objectives.

If you develop symptoms of flu-like illness during the practicum, and you have not been immunized with influenza vaccine prior to the start of the practicum, you may be excluded for a period of 7-10 days until your symptoms subside and you are no longer contagious. Additionally, you may be excluded from the practice setting if you are unimmunized and there is a significant risk of exposure (e.g., 7-10 days after the last case has occurred within the setting). If this situation occurs, notify your faculty advisor and preceptor by phone of your absence and expected return date.

Note: Students in internship/practicum/practice courses in the Faculty of Health Sciences may be required to complete hours outside of the regularly scheduled semester.

ETHICAL PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE AND CONDUCT

Public health students are expected to practice within ethical guidelines as outlined in the Public Health Student Handbook. A breach of ethical conduct will be addressed by your Faculty Advisor and may result in failure of the practicum experience. Expectations and responsibilities of the student, the faculty advisor, the practicum coordinator, and the preceptor are outlined in Appendix I.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. If you have been diagnosed with a disability, there is no need to face the challenge of University without support. Please contact the Accommodated Learning Centre to set up an appointment at 403.329.2766 <http://www.uleth.ca/ross/counselling/index.html>.

After registering with the Accommodated Learning Centre, your instructor will be notified by a formal letter of any accommodations you require. In addition, students are responsible for requesting accommodations from the instructor at least ***two weeks*** in advance of the evaluation date. The instructor and student are jointly responsible for arranging the resources needed for the evaluation process.

PLAGIARISM STATEMENT

The University of Lethbridge subscribes to Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection service. Please be advised that student work submitted for credit in this course may be submitted to this system to verify its originality. Students must be able to submit both electronic and hard copy versions of their work upon request.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

All University of Lethbridge students, faculty and staff must comply with Canadian law and institutional license agreements pertaining to copyright. At the same time, keeping abreast of our copyright obligations and options is a complex task as copyright matters locally and globally are in flux and are likely to remain so for at least the near future.

The University's Copyright website (www.uleth.ca/copyright) is a source of current copyright information that includes:

- answers to common copyright questions (see the [FAQs](#)),
- guidance on whether you need permission or a license to copy a particular work (see the [Copyright Permissions Flow Chart](#)),
- guidance on assessing whether fair dealing may apply to specific instances of copying you wish to undertake (see the [Guidelines for Copying under Fair Dealing](#)), and
- a [permissions look-up tool](#) to help you determine the kinds of copying and other uses permitted by the Library's license agreements covering specific online journals and other online resources.

You are encouraged to contact the University Copyright Advisor (copyright@uleth.ca) for assistance with any copyright questions or issues.

LIST OF APPENDICES: (Available on the Course Moodle site)

1. APPENDIX I – **Expectations and Responsibilities**
2. APPENDIX II – **Practicum Guide**
3. APPENDIX III – **Reflective Journals**
4. APPENDIX IV – **Scholarly Project/Contribution**
5. APPENDIX V – **Practicum Summary**
6. APPENDIX VI – **Midpoint and Final Student Practicum Evaluation**