

Purpose

The purpose of the practicum is to provide students with applied training and skills that will assist them to reach their employment and career goals. Students lacking relevant work experience will supplement their MA program training with an practicum by working in a position of responsibility for a maximum of one semester.

The Practicum Interview

Each student will meet with the Practicum Committee (PC) comprised of the student's supervisor and the program chair. Typically students meet with the PC at the end of their first semester or mid-way through their second semester. It is the student's responsibility to

The PC will determine whether the student will be required to complete a full practicum (between 300 and 350 hours or a minimum of 8 weeks of full time work); a partial internship (number of hours decided by the practicum committee); or whether they receive a full waiver.

Practicum Criteria

The practicum is a paid or unpaid position in which the individual learns the skills related to a position of responsibility related to their gerontology program concentration. A position of responsibility is one in which the individual is in a supervisory, managerial, or other key role. Examples include: interning with a manager of health region; working with a director of a seniors centre to learn all aspects of their job; or learning the job of a VP in charge of developing senior's complexes.

It is expected that the student play an active role in finding a suitable placement, which may include contacting agencies recommended by the IC. The IC will provide suggestions and networking support. There are also appropriate internship opportunities that arise periodically, especially in the spring and summer, that are circulated to the graduate student email list-serve by the department. The internship does not need to be a paid position, but an hourly wage is common.

Research Practicums

Under special circumstances, students may be allowed to meet their practicum requirements by leading a research project that involves connections with one or more community agencies. This work will typically be a position of responsibility beyond a Research Assistant position, in which the student is working on a large research project; is in a supervisory role; learns all phases of research (i.e., the Research Coordinator's position); and is involved in working with community agencies working in the area of gerontolog

