

Frequently Asked Questions about Psychology Practicum at Kwantlen

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What is Psychology Practicum?

- Psychology Practicum is a semester long work term for students in the final year of their BA or BAA in psychology.
- Practicum students work for a total of 180 to 200 hours at a work placement outside Kwantlen. The work site is selected in consultation with the practicum supervisor at Kwantlen

Why would I take Psychology Practicum?

- Psychology Practicum is a requirement for BAA Psychology students. For BA Psychology students, it is optional.
- The goal of Practicum is to create a career bridge between your knowledge of psychology acquired through variety of psychology courses and the work experience outside Kwantlen.
- Many of our past students have found meaningful, high paying jobs following their Practicum term.

How do I find a Practicum work placement?

- Students are encouraged to find a practicum placement, just as they would find a job.
- Students should look for placement that relates to one or more of psychology courses they have taken; e.g., human factors and ergonomics, developmental psychopathology, research methods, Neuropsychology, culture and psychology, social psychology, organizational behavior, psychometrics etc.



- Students should check the Practicum website which lists past Practicum locations and Practicum projects completed by past Practicum students.



www.kwantlen.ca/socialsciences/psychology/practicum.html

- At least a month BEFORE the start of the practicum semester, students must meet with the psychology Practicum supervisor for advice, guidance, and eligibility of the Practicum location.

I want to go to a graduate school. Can I do research as my Psychology Practicum?

- You may choose a Practicum placement that allows you research experience.
- You may do your Practicum in any research facility of the government / private company / non-profit organization, or in research labs of graduate schools to gain experience and be ahead in your graduate school prep.

When can I do my Practicum?

- Psychology Practicum is typically offered in a summer term.
- Students in their final year of psychology degree completion should plan to do their Practicum in the summer term.
- If the summer term Practicum does not fit with your graduation plan, you should talk to the Practicum supervisor for other options to complete your Practicum during another semester.

Are there pre-requisites for taking Psychology Practicum?

- **Yes.** Students are expected to have completed
Psyc 3200 (Industrial and Organizational Psychology)
Psyc 4200 (Human Factors and Ergonomics)
Psyc 4400 (Research Methods II Qualitative Methodologies).
Psyc 4800 (Professional and Ethical Issues) is recommended but not required
- A prerequisite course may be taken concurrently with Practicum.
- **No.** The Practicum supervisor may waive the pre-requisite courses if a) he/she is convinced that the student would be able to complete the practicum project without taking any one of the prerequisites, b) taking the Practicum during a summer term in a given year helps student complete the degree in the following two semesters during which the pre-requisites may be completed.



Can I use my current paid job or Volunteer hours as my Practicum?

- **No.** The Psychology Practicum requires a specific goal of acquiring work skill that is related to psychology area, and results in completion of a specific project or a career certificate.
- **Yes-** if your current job or volunteer hours allow you an opportunity to create a semester long psychology Practicum project approved by the Practicum supervisor and the employer/volunteer agency.

Can I complete all my Practicum hours in one month or do I have to spread them across 4 months of the semester?

- You may complete the Practicum hours as they suit your project and time. It may be completed in a month or may be spread across any or all of the 4 months of the term.

Do I get paid for Practicum work?

- **No.** Practicum is a course you take like any other course in psychology. The work employer is not required or expected to pay any salary or wages.
- **Yes,** if the employer agrees to pay.

Is there anything else required besides completing work hours?

- Each week you submit on-line weekly report –regardless whether you worked or not during that week.
- You meet three times during the term as a group in class for sharing and presenting your Practicum experiences.
- You submit a major report at the end of your Practicum term.
- You present your Practicum project in class during the last week of classes.
- You present your Practicum project as a poster or an oral presentation at a public event hosted in the Fall semester.

Is it fun?

- Absolutely!!!!
- Just talk to students who have completed their Practicum!!



Check out the photos of past practicum students on location!
www.kwantlen.ca/socialsciences/psychology/practicum.html