

Professional Practicum FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

What is a 3 (or 6) credit hour (ch) practicum?

A 3 (or 6) credit hour practicum is an experiential learning course that allows undergraduate students in the UNB Faculty of Kinesiology to integrate theory of the classroom into practice in a work or career-oriented environment. The student concentrates on an area of interest and contributes to a community's resources while developing personal confidence and skills as a developing professional. Thus, the primary purpose of a practicum is EXPERIENCE.

What are the pre-requisites for a practicum?

In order to take RSS/KIN 3913/3914 and/or RSS/KIN 4910, students must have completed 48ch and have an AGPA of at least 2.5. Thus, students generally take practicums after they have completed 2 years of their undergraduate BRSS/BScKIN degree.

Who is involved in the 3ch (or 6ch) practicum?

Eligible students interested in 3ch (or 6ch) practicum opportunities should contact the Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Greg Duquette (duquette@unb.ca). Only those practicums that provide students with a quality learning and educational experience, as well as sufficiently flexible to meet individual student learning objectives, will be approved. The successful development of a practicum depends on the selection of quality practice locations with experienced and motivated community practitioners. A syllabus will be established at the beginning of the practicum, and this will guide the learning activities of the student and provide a framework for student evaluation.

How long is a practicum?

Practicums occur in the September to December (Fall), January to April (Winter) or May to August (Spring/Summer) semester. Thus, the length of a practicum is approximately 3 months, and unless special arrangements are made, it is assumed that all students will abide by this timeline. As a rule, the practicum is designed as the equivalent of one 'regular' 3 credit class – 120 hours. Thus, a 3 month practicum roughly translates into 10 hours a week (120 hours / 12 weeks). Request for alteration in the practicum duration or any significant modification in scheduling should be approved prior to beginning the practicum.

When can I complete my practicum?

Most students complete a 3 ch practicum in conjunction with a full-time student status course load of 'regular' courses. Thus, the majority of practicums take place during Fall and Winter semesters.

Where can I do my practicum?

Students typically complete a practicum while taking other courses on campus. Thus, the majority of practicums take place within the Fredericton region. Students should ensure that transportation to/from the practicums is possible.

Can I find my own practicum?

Many practicums originate through a student's networks or contacts. Students are encouraged to pursue available practicum opportunities through their own resources. Other practicum opportunities originate with the agency advertising a posting. All practicums must meet Faculty standards and be approved by the Assistant Dean. Students who make their own arrangements need to be aware of semester deadlines for finalizing a placement. Sufficient time must be available for the Assistant Dean to get in contact with the potential community practitioner to ensure that he/she has an understanding of the practicum opportunity.

Who should be my community practitioner?

The Faculty expects that the identified community practitioner will have appropriate qualifications and can provide day-to-day guidance/supervision in which an environment conducive to learning is promoted. The community practitioner should be someone who has significant broad-based experience in a Kinesiology-, Recreation- or Sport-related field in which the student is interested in. It is important that the community practitioner has the skills and desire to supervise and mentor the student throughout their practicum experience.

What is the role of the community practitioner?

The community practitioner has agreed to supervise the student in their experiential learning setting for a temporary period of time. They have expressed a willingness to assist in educating the student as it relates to their areas of knowledge and expertise. The community practitioner has also agreed to provide evaluation and feedback to the Assistant Dean in assistance with determining a student's final grade.

Are students paid during a practicum?

There is no guarantee of financial compensation during the practicum. A practicum is to be viewed as an experiential learning opportunity for the student whereby payment (and expectations thereof) may interfere with desired learning objectives.

What is the difference between a practicum and an internship?

- Practicums are available to ALL students in the UNB Faculty of Kinesiology who meet the required pre-requisites (*must have completed 48ch and have an AGPA of at least 2.5*). Internships are mandatory for BRSS (Management) and BRSS (Wellness) degree program students, who MUST complete an internship as part of their curriculum, and optional for BRSS (Education), BRSS (with Minor), and BSKIN students.
- Practicums are 3 (or 6) credit hours, whereas the 12 credit hour Internship involves a full-time commitment on behalf of the student (i.e., 480 hours / 12 weeks = 40 hours/week). Thus, it also involves a much more intensive mentorship role on behalf of the community practitioner, as well as the Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies.
- Practicum workloads reflect this 3 (or 6) credit vs. 12 credit discrepancy, as internship students complete a more intensive assignment workload.

How many practicums can I take?

Normally students are allowed NO MORE than 6 credit hours of practicum courses throughout their undergraduate degree. (This does not include the KIN 3950 Athletic Therapy Practicum (6ch) and the KIN 4950 Advanced Athletic Therapy Practicum (6ch).)

Can I continue my practicum after the semester ends?

Many students continue their involvement with the community practitioner at the conclusion of their practicum. Continued voluntary involvement is encouraged, however the student would cease receiving course credit for this experience.

Can I work part-time while participating in a practicum?

Students are encouraged to view the practicum as the equivalent workload of a regular 3 credit course. The ability to work part-time, while studying full-time is up to the student to determine. It is possible however that your practicum opportunities/experience may become more limited when attempting to schedule around other extra-curricular activities such as a part-time job, varsity athletics, travel plans, etc.

What happens if I miss time during practicum?

Students are encouraged to maintain a healthy communication with their practicum supervisors. Any significant alterations to the agreed upon hours/expectations can be addressed on an as-needed basis.

Will I need a security clearance or background check?

Some agencies may require additional forms and procedures. Students who require a Security Clearance Check may be responsible for contacting the appropriate police agency (Fredericton Police Services; RCMP; etc.), completing their application form and paying the required fee. Students should anticipate it may take additional time for security checks to be completed.

What makes for a good practicum experience?

A good practicum is one where the student has the optimal opportunity to apply and integrate course knowledge and theory to a “real-world” setting under the supervision of an experienced practitioner. Upon completion of a good practicum, the student has developed a greater awareness of the field, and where they see themselves within it.

What forms need to be completed?

Students must submit an up-to-date resume and their practicum learning objectives to the Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

In order to make the practicum course official with the University Registrar, the student must submit an official syllabus signed by the student, the practitioner and the Assistant Dean, as well as the following form:

http://www.unb.ca/fredericton/registrar/resources/pdf/independent_study_form.pdf