

Criteria for the Required Practicum in Prevention Science

Purpose and Description

The purpose of the practicum is to provide students who are seeking a minor or certificate in Prevention Science with an opportunity to apply principles of Prevention Science to genuine problems or issues with supervision and support. The practicum may be taken for credit, or may be completed without credit hours. Students must document their practicum experiences to satisfy the minor and certificate requirements. The practicum should be taken after the student has completed the 880 Capstone Seminar in Prevention Science.

Proposal: The practicum proposal is a one-page description of the practicum that includes a goal statement, several objectives to meet the goal, and how the project applies the principles of Prevention Science. The proposal must be signed by the student's academic advisor. It will include the criteria listed below. Use these criteria as headings in your proposal

1. **Supervision.** The practicum must be supervised by a member of the UW-Madison faculty. Although collaborative supervision is encouraged (e.g., a faculty member and a field-based supervisor may share supervision), at least one supervisor must be a faculty member. Experiences completed in the context of other credit-generating activities (e.g., thesis or dissertation work) could count toward the practicum requirement, if all other requirements are satisfied.
2. **Hours.** Practica should encompass 3-4 hours/week/credit and involve the supervisor. For example, if the practicum is taken for 3 credits, the student should complete approximately 10-12 hours per week, or a total of 150-180 hours of work in a given semester. Time spent in supervision should be included in the total practicum hours. All practica (including those not taken for credit) should be at least 50 hours.
3. **Setting.** Practica may be on or off-campus. The setting should include activities or services that are related to prevention science via direct (e.g., clinic, school, hospital, extension program, community center) or indirect (e.g., research, program evaluation) services.
4. **Product.** All practica must culminate in a product that is of value to individuals or groups beyond those who evaluate the student's academic progress. That is, the work or product must do more than satisfy a course, thesis, or dissertation requirement; it must be of value to a broader or different audience. Examples of products include informational brochures, web sites, workshops, treatment manuals, papers at professional meetings, or refereed publications. Examples of products that would not satisfy this requirement include theses, dissertations, or papers completed to satisfy course requirements. It would be acceptable to use a thesis, dissertation,

or course-specific product as a basis for a practicum product, but the final product must exist in a distinct form with a target audience beyond the university. For example, thesis work could form the basis for a practicum, but in addition to the written thesis, the student must produce some other product (e.g., a paper, journal article, workshop presentation of results) to have the work count toward a practicum. Indirect products (e.g., a log of hours spent working with clients) would also be acceptable to satisfy this requirement, but are less desirable than permanent products produced for use by other individuals or agencies.

- 5. Approval.** The practicum proposal should be submitted to Carol Aspinwall in the School of Nursing (caaspinwall@wisc.edu) for review and approval by the Prevention Science Steering Committee. Students should submit practicum proposals for approval as early as possible to ensure adequate time to resolve any difficulties in the approval process.

Product. The product includes a cover sheet and the product itself.

- 1. Description.** A cover sheet that identifies (a) the student, practicum supervisor(s), the student's academic advisor; (b) the setting, hours, and activities performed in the practicum; and (c) an explanation of how the practicum product addresses a principle of prevention science.
- 2. Product.** The finished product of the practicum should be submitted to Carol Aspinwall in the School of Nursing for review and approval by the Prevention Science steering committee members for approval when completed. It is suggested the student allow at least two months before graduation.