

**MH 220**  
**Mental Health Practicum**  
**3 Credits**

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## MH 220 Version: 1



# Mental Health Practicum

## Calendar Description

This is the final field placement for Community Mental Health students. Emphasis is placed on students working directly with vulnerable people who have mental illness, and their families. Students have the opportunity to observe, plan, implement and evaluate programming for facilitating change and supporting clients.

## Rationale

This is a required course for Community Mental Health students. In order for students to further their knowledge and skill development, the focus of this field placement is on the integration of classroom theory and professional practice by planning and implementing appropriate interventions and programs. Students have the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills in mental health settings.

## Prerequisites

Students must be in the process of completing their ninth course in the program to register for MH 220.

## Co-Requisites

None

## Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. demonstrate professional workplace behaviour.
2. identify mental illness and mental health problems in clients.
3. use observational and recording strategies to record the behaviour of clients for the purpose of information sharing and/or intervention planning.
4. ask for feedback on their performance determining what change is needed and initiating activities that will foster that change.
5. identify needs, strengths, vulnerabilities, and resources to formulate case plans, activities and/or interventions appropriate for the clients at the agency.

6. demonstrate the use of the agency's format for planning and reporting activities and interventions for individual youth, groups and families.
7. communicate with and/or counsel individuals or groups effectively.

## **Resource Materials**

### ***Required Textbook:***

None

### ***Reference Textbook:***

None

## **Conduct of Course**

Students work in a mental health agency for four weeks. Students are placed in programs where they express a particular interest and in locations in which they have living accommodations.

Students complete assignments and engage in on-line discussions as part of their course requirements.

## **Evaluation Procedures**

Students are evaluated through direct observation and communication with his or her Practicum Supervisor and Assigned College Instructor, based on the criteria outlined in the Practicum Evaluation and Online assignments.

### **Midterm Evaluation**

This evaluation is designed to give students and placement supervisors an opportunity to discuss performance and suggestions for improvement. *If a student is having serious difficulties at this time he/she may be requested to withdraw from the field practicum.*

### **Final Evaluation and Mark**

A Pass/Fail grade is awarded upon completion of this practicum.

## **Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements**

This is a pass/fail course.

## Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for success in any course. Absence for any reason does not relieve a student of the responsibility of completing course work and assignments to the satisfaction of the Assigned College instructor. Students may be required to make up missed placement hours. Poor attendance may result in the suspension of a student from the course.

In cases of repeated absences due to illness, the student may be requested to submit a medical certificate.

*Instructors have the authority to require attendance.*

**Students are required to inform their Assigned College Instructor and their Practicum Supervisor about any missed time prior to the start of their work day.**

## Course Units/Topics

1. Observation of the role of community mental health practitioner
  - a) develop a knowledge of the responsibilities
  - b) develop awareness of the goals of the agency
2. Stamina
3. Professional Behaviour
  - a) identify attitudes that are successful and unsuccessful in the community mental health practitioner
  - b) adhere to a code of ethics understood in the field.
  - c) identify and understand relationships within the agency.
  - d) demonstrate work place skills
    - be on time
    - adhere to workplace standards and policies
  - e) confidentiality
4. Program Duties and Expectations
  - a) carry out duties assigned by Practicum Supervisor
5. Respect for Individual
  - a) children/youth, families
  - b) staff
  - c) professionals
  - d) other individuals within the workplace

6. Communication
  - a) with children/youth
  - b) with staff in the centre
  - c) with Practicum Supervisor
  - d) with Assigned College Instructor
  
7. Strategies
  - a) used with clients at risk
  - b) used with families
  
8. Programming
  - a) planning
  - b) implementation
  - c) evaluation



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