

PSYC 4010 *Practicum* Video Presentation

For Summer 2024 Semester

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Why do a Practicum?

What have other students said?

- *Exploration info*
- *Work Experience*
- *Approach experience*
- *Skills & Confidence*
- *Contacts!*



When is the best time to start preparing for a practicum? [*hint: the earlier, the better*]

When should you complete your practicum? 3rd year or 4th year? (it depends...)

When do you apply?

- Open from November until spots are filled

How does the application process work, and how do you secure a spot?

How do you keep the spot secured?
(or *how does one lose a spot*)

How do students find positions?

- Overall framework: Your initiative; my support

The ways students have found positions include:

- Referral from me to a past or new contact
- Through their own direct approaches

It can be somewhat like seeking a job:

- Search and screening (resume/interview) before agreements

Note: Student initiative has multiple benefits!

- When do students usually find positions?

PSYC 4010: What does the Practicum summer course involve?

- 180-220 hours working for employer/host
What kind of schedule can you work?
- Monthly class meetings (virtual is possible)
- Weekly log report, more extended Reflective Learning Reports every month
- Final oral presentation & digital poster
- Professional behavior & communication

- How many other courses should I take at the same time? Other work?

Practicum Timeline

Nov/Dec/Jan	Applications & online interviews
November to March	Students explore, seek and secure positions (with consultation & support of Practicum Supervisor)
March	Registration for PSYC 4010 (permission of Instructor) <i>Class may fill by February</i>
April	Finalization of positions/contracts if needed
May to August	Practicum work * Schedules and end dates vary
May - July	Monthly class meetings
June & July	Practicum Supervisor Virtual Meetings
By early August	Final Oral Presentations & Assignments due

What Practicum positions have students done before?

What practicum positions are possible for next summer?

Do students ever get paid positions?

Do students ever get paid work out of a volunteer practicum?

What do Employers usually say afterward?
[it's usually *very* positive!]

A little advice from former students:

- *Begin research and searching as early as you can.*
- *Ideally choose a position you might enjoy and/or see as a step towards your goals.*
- *Don't take too many courses that summer.*

Common Sources for Practicum Positions

- Past PSYC Practicum hosts (usually connected via Instructor)
- Suggestion through Practicum or your other Instructors
- Your own contacts (even family)
- Searchable positions, volunteer opportunities, or services
- Your own neighborhood and internet searches based on interest
- Websites for additional searching based on your interests:

<https://www.volunteerconnector.org/>

<https://charityvillage.com>

<https://volunteeringvanouver.ca/volunteer-opportunities/>

<https://bc.211.ca/>

Sample Student Voices – What did you gain?

*I was pleasantly surprised to discover to what extent my formal education had prepared me for novel situations. I gained work experience and a new perspective on my education and myself. **The practicum course will hold a high rank in the most useful courses I have taken during my degree.***

*I was able to gain better insight to my personal strengths and work on overcoming some of my weaknesses and fears. I gained so much more knowledge than I anticipated going into my practicum. **My confidence was significantly improved.***

I gained valuable experience in direct contact with and support for individuals with persistent mental illness.

*Thank you for this experience. This wasn't a requirement for my degree, but **it really helped me realize that I can do it.** I've been so anxious of what happens after I finish at KPU, what I would do, and if I could do it.*

Next Steps?

- Submit your Practicum Application & Resume
- Virtual interview/meeting with Practicum Instructor
- Review/consider:
 - PSYC 4010 website information, student videos & posters
 - Past Practicum positions, organizations & your own goals
- Improve your Resume (*KPU Career Services can help*)



<https://www.kpu.ca/arts/psychology/practicum>

