

PSYC 4010 Psychology Practicum Information Video For Summer 2026 Applications

Kurt Penner kurt.penner@kpu.ca
PSYC Faculty & Practicum Coordinator
Kwantlen Polytechnic University



Why do a Practicum? What have other students said?

- ✓ *Exploration info*
- ✓ *Work Experience*
- ✓ *Search/Approach Experience*
- ✓ *Skills & Confidence*
- ✓ *Contacts*



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.*

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

Q: When should you complete your practicum? 3rd or 4th year?
[it depends...]

Q: When should you apply? Is there a deadline?
Open from November until spots are filled

Q: How does the application process work?
How do you secure a spot?
How do you keep the spot secured?
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 to a past host or requesting organization
- ☐ Direct approaches

It can be like seeking a job:

- ☐ Search & the 'hidden' job market
- ☐ Application & screening (resume/interview)

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 (with remote/virtual options)
- ☐ Weekly logs
- ☐ Reflective learning reports
- ☐ Final oral presentation & digital poster creation
- ☐ Professional behavior & communication expected

• How many other courses should you 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 course (only after position secured, by permission of Instructor) Note: <i>Spots may be filled by February</i>
April	Finalization of positions/contracts if needed
May to mid-August	Practicum work * Schedules & end dates vary widely
May - July	Monthly class meetings online
June & July	Practicum Supervisor Virtual Meetings
Late July or early August	Final Oral Presentations & Assignments due

Where have students completed a practicum previously?

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?

*[hint: it's usually **very** positive!]*

A little advice from former students:

- **Begin research & search as early as you can.**
- *Ideally choose a position you might enjoy and/or see as a step towards your goals.*

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://volunteeringvancover.ca/volunteer-opportunities/>

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

Next Steps?

- Submit your Practicum Application & Resume
- Virtual interview/meeting with Practicum Instructor
- Review/consider before & after your interview:
 - 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>

