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PSYC 4010 Practicum FAQ

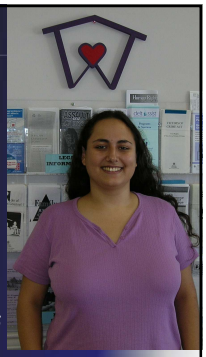
1. ***Why*** complete a Practicum?
2. ***When*** is the best time to complete a Practicum?
3. ***What do Employers think*** about the Practicum?
4. ***What*** are the Practicum ***elements***?
5. ***How many courses*** to take during the Practicum?
6. ***Where*** can students complete a Practicum?
7. Is it possible to find a ***paid*** practicum position?
8. ***How do students find and secure positions?***
9. ***How & when to apply?***
10. When is a space ***reserved***?
11. How many spaces are available? When will it be full?
12. ***When*** is the best time to ***start looking*** for a position?

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Why do a Practicum?

What have students gained?

- ✓ *Exploration, testing direction*
- ✓ *Work Experience*
- ✓ *Search/Approach Experience*
- ✓ *Skills in real world settings*
- ✓ *Confidence boost*
- ✓ *Contacts*
- ✓ *Further volunteer & job opportunities*



When is the best time to do a Practicum?
3rd or 4th year?
[It depends on your goals]

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What do Employers think about the Practicum?



Are they looking for Practicum students?

What matters to them when students apply?

What do they say after the Practicum summer?

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PSYC 4010: What are the Elements?

The Position
- ❑ 180-220 hours working for employer/host
- ❑ Varied mix of orientation, training, supervision & mentoring
- ❑ Work schedules are can vary, set up between Host & Student
- ❑ Final Supervisory Feedback/Evaluation

The Course
- ❑ Monthly online class/peer meetings (usually 2 options)
- ❑ Weekly log submissions
- ❑ 2-3 Reflective learning reports
- ❑ Final oral presentation
- ❑ Professional behavior & communication expectations

❑ ***How many courses to take during the summer?***

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What practicum positions are possible?

The short answer: Many, many places in BC!

Where have students completed a practicum previously?
[See a partial list of organizations on the Practicum website]

Child Development, Community Support, Counselling Services, Crisis Support, Family & Parenting Support, Equine-assisted therapy, Homelessness & Addiction Support, Indigenous Groups, Community Mental Health, Ministry of Children & Families, Neurodiverse Support, Police Services, Women's Support Services… **and many more!**

Do students ever find paid positions?

What about KPU Psych Research Lab positions?

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How do students find & secure positions?



- ❑ Overall framework: Student initiative; Support from Practicum Coordinator/Instructor

Two main avenues
1. Referral to a past Practicum host or contact
2. Direct approaches [Each year, MANY are found this way]

It can be like seeking a job – the challenge & the benefit
- ❑ Search & the 'hidden' job market – Approach SKILLS!
- ❑ Application & screening (resume/interview)

Note: Student initiative has multiple benefits!

- ❑ **When** do students find their positions?

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Sources for Practicum Position Ideas

Past PSYC Practicum hosts (Referral request or direct approach)

Your own contacts, via family/friends, school, work, volunteer exp

Your own neighborhood and internet searches based on interest

Web searchable databases for positions, volunteer opps, services

Ideas for further searching based on your interests:

https://www.volunteerconnector.org/

https://charityvillage.com

https://volunteeringvancouver.ca/volunteer-opportunities/

https://bc.211.ca/

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When should you apply? Is there a deadline?

Open from November until the 40 spots are filled

Best guess full by mid-January, but later is possible

How does the application process work?

Online application & resume submission;

Response & request to book online interview

How do you secure a spot?

How do you keep the spot secured?

How does one lose a spot?

When is the best time to start preparing for a practicum?

Never too early to research and consider, even approach

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Sample Student Voices from Summer 2026

I gained not only practical skills related to my field in psychology, but also how to communicate with individuals struggling with mental health, what trauma-informed care looks like in action, how to organize and plan events for multiple youth, how to properly document, and so much more. My practicum position has made me a stronger person and a stronger future counsellor.
--Alexis Burgess, at Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre

My practicum has taught me so much about my strengths and weaknesses, which confirmed my intention to become a counsellor. I am also more confident in applying for positions and seeking new experiences because of my practicum!
--Issa Bernardo, at Dr. Matsuba's MAD Lab

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More sample student voices…

This role helped strengthen my confidence in working with youth, and how to support them. The practicum enhanced my interest in working with youth in my future.
--Kim Dhami, at Touchstone Family Association Francis House

I think the biggest thing I gained from my practicum experience was confidence in myself and my abilities. I got to apply things I've learned in school to a real environment, but I also learned a lot about what goes on behind the scenes with research, planning events, and working as part of a team.
--Thawab Ali, at Dr. Dastur's VR Lab

I gained a lot more refined speaking skills for counselling and the ability to handle situations that go from 0-100 quickly.
--Liam Davies, at the CNIB

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More Student Voices…

One of the best experiences of my undergraduate degree! Being trusted with having my own clients, being a part of the team who truly make change, and being hired by the end of the practicum are just some of the highlights from my Practicum :))
--Oksana Fihura, at the Surrey Women's Centre

I think I gained confidence that my skills can and will make a difference in my future career. I gained the ability to trust myself, and to impart some of my learning to the youth I was supporting. I learned more about what I want out of a career, and how the camaraderie of the SPS made me excited to be a part of a team working towards a similar goal.
--Paige Jamieson, at Surrey Police Services Youth Services Unit

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