

University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health

MPH Epidemiology Practicum

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DALLA LANA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Goals of this presentation

- Introduce the purpose of the practicum
- Outline the requirements of the practicum
- Outline roles and responsibilities
- Provide information so that you may succeed academically and develop professionally



The Practicum is a Unique Learning Opportunity

- It allows you to:
 - Satisfy the academic requirements for the MPH program
 - Apply classroom learning (Forest beyond the trees!)
 - Be engaged in a planned, supervised and evaluated experience
 - Meet your academic goals and follow your professional interests



Supervisor comments

- “ (The student) was flexible, took advantage of this learning opportunity to identify ways to improve data quality, and continually strived to apply her epidemiological expertise to achieve a final deliverable that would have a meaningful impact”.
- “(The student) excelled at all the placement requirements and has made a significant contribution to many organizational priorities. We are quite happy with the practicum experience and would gladly welcome students in subsequent years.”



Student comments

- “There was a lot of room to **explore my interests** and learn about how to formulate research based on my interests. The practicum helped **consolidate many of the concepts** learned from 1st year courses (critical appraisal of studies, data analysis, research reporting).”
- “Overall the practicum was an amazing experience- I **learned a lot** about hospital epidemiology and “how” epidemiologists need to think”.



Prerequisites

- Biostatistics 1 & 2 (CHL5201H & CHL5202H)
- Epidemiology 1 & 2 (CHL5401H & CHL5402H)
- Population Perspectives for Epidemiology (CHL5426H)
- Health Trends & Surveillance (CHL5405H)
- Public Health Policy (CHL5300H)
- Scientific Overviews in Epidemiology (CHL5418H)

- All the required courses in 1st year



Responsibilities

- Student
- Practicum placement officer



Practicum placement officer responsibilities

- Provide a list of placements to students in January
- Assist the student in selecting their first placement
- Ensure practicum supervisors are aware of their roles and responsibilities
- Assist in completing the learning contract, as necessary
- Assist in determining if practicum objectives/ proposed deliverables meet required program criteria
- Collect forms and final package
- Available for meetings before, during or after placements with students and/or supervisors



Student responsibilities

- Contact potential preceptors in a professional manner with your CV and cover letter; be prepared to interview for a position
- Enroll for practicum credits
- Ensure you have read and abide by the University's Standards for Professional Practice Behavior
- Comply with policies and procedures of placement organization
- Ensure the Practicum forms (beginning, interim and final) are submitted to the practicum placement officer in a timely manner
- Maintain communication with practicum placement officer



MPH Epidemiology Practicum Final Checklist

- To be submitted:
 - Confirmation of Practicum form
 - Learning Contract
 - Interim Evaluation (student)
 - Interim Evaluation (supervisor)
 - Final Evaluation (student)
 - Final Evaluation (supervisor)
 - Practicum report (3-4 page reflection on placement)
 - Practicum deliverables (as outlined in learning contract)
 - Practicum Abstract
 - PowerPoint poster
- The practicum package is reviewed by the Practicum placement officer and the MPH Epidemiology Program Director
- Grade: Credit/ No Credit



Practicum deliverables

- A few examples from past students:
 - Health Status Reports
 - Manuscripts for publication
 - Outbreak Reports
 - Indicator development
 - Surveillance tool development



University of Toronto Student Placement Agreements

- As of 2014, the University of Toronto requires a student placement agreement to be in place with the host organization prior to a student starting a placement.
- No agreement, no placement.
- List of organizations with agreements in place with UT on Blackboard.



Capstone

- Students looking for a thesis-equivalent
- Submit a Capstone proposal including a timeline for the 3.5 credits with breakdown by semester
- Identify a supervisor early



Resources

- Practicum guidelines
- Blackboard site (access granted December 2015)
- Practicum placement officer
- NETWORK! Talk to colleagues, guest lecturers, faculty members. Go to events. Ask questions. Follow-up.



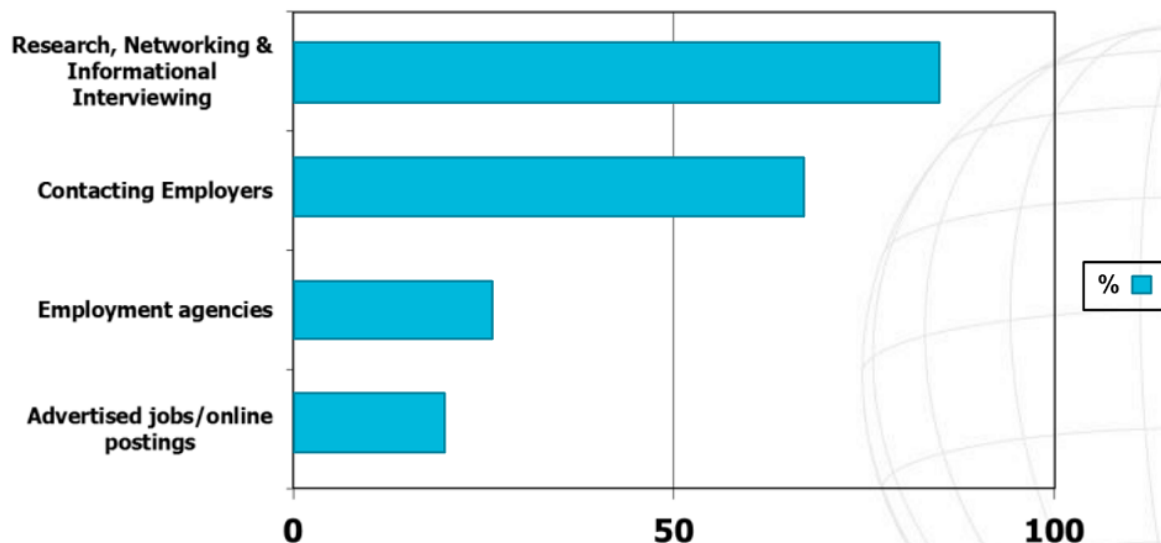
Chapter 2 - Full-time Work



| Slide Title | Duration | Status |
|----------------------------|----------|--------|
| Chapter 2 - Full-time Work | 00:29 | |
| Workshop Features | 00:10 | |
| Workshop Objectives | 00:18 | |
| Work search process | 01:19 | ✓ |
| Work search process..... | 00:46 | ✓ |
| How do people find jobs... | 00:47 | |
| Work Search Strategies | 00:46 | |
| Work Search Strategies | 00:37 | |
| Work Search Strategies | 00:27 | |
| Next steps and Resourc... | 00:44 | |

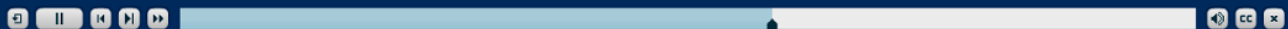
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How do people find jobs?



Survey Data: Adapted from a variety of surveys including the annual Career Centre Recent Graduate Employment Surveys; Richard Bolles "What Colour Is Your Parachute?" 2011; and Canadian Labour Market Information)

CAREERCENTRE | 214 College Street, Toronto, ON M5T 2Z9 | www.careers.utoronto.ca



Professional Development

- Graduate Professional Skills workshops
- Career Centre online workshops: finding work, resume/ CV & cover letters, networking, interview techniques
- Professional Development seminars @ DLSPH



Enrolling on ROSI

- First practicum:
 - 16 weeks FT (~560hrs) = 2.0 credits (CHL6010Y & CHL6012Y)
- Second practicum (optional):
 - 12 weeks FT (~420hrs) = 1.5 credits (CHL6020Y, CHL6021H)
- Trouble shooting: Ellen Sokoloff e.sokoloff@utoronto.ca



Collaborative program (or Global Health emphasis) requirements

- E.g. Community Development, Aboriginal Health, Public Health Policy, Addiction Studies
- Start looking and networking early!
- Note: Difficult to complete GH practicum abroad in first summer, more likely to be a January (2nd year) placement



Words of wisdom

- Read up on agencies/ researchers you might be interested in working with, early!
- Set specific objectives/goals in your learning contract
- Discuss your objectives and goals with your supervisor before you go on site
- Make arrangements early so that you have a smooth, productive practicum
- When in doubt, do not hesitate to get in contact with me, the earlier the better – I'm here to support you!



Questions? Concerns? Contact me

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