

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

- Introduction to Public Health Sciences (CHL5004H)
- 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2016)
- Practicum placement officer
- NETWORK! Talk to colleagues, guest lecturers, faculty members. Go to events. Ask questions. Follow-up.



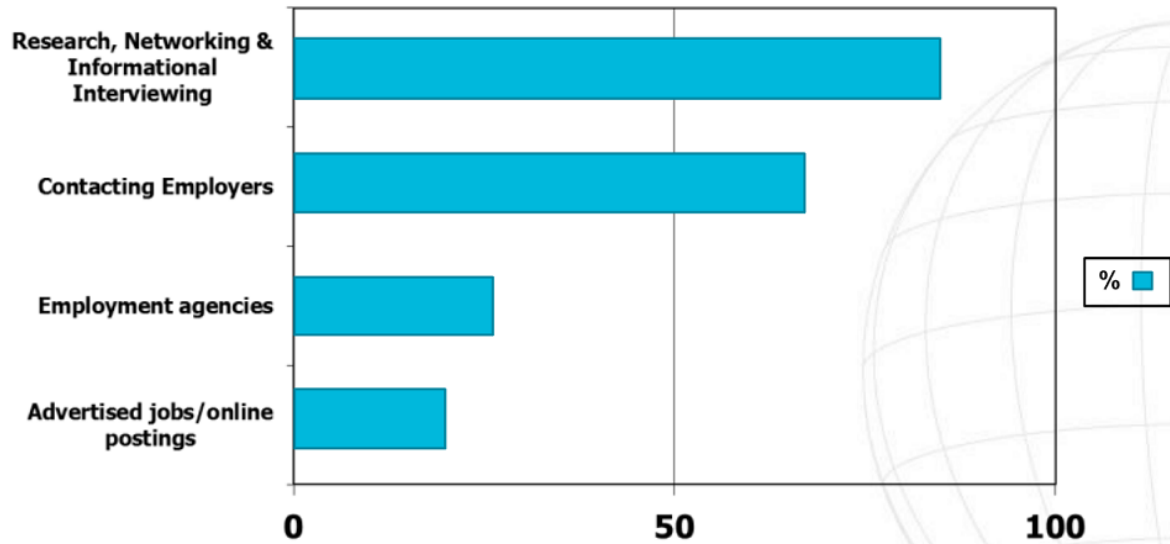
## Chapter 2 - Full-time Work



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	

Find 03:48 / 06:31 Minutes Clear

# 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





# 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](mailto: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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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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