

University of Winnipeg
Athletic Therapy Practicum Program
Frequently Asked Questions

1. The practicum programs only require 600 hours, how do I get the remaining 600 hours to write the CATA exams?
 - a. As a member of the CATA you are required to identify a supervisory Athletic Therapist (SAT). Your SAT is responsible for mentoring you, supervising the quality of your hours and eventually verifying that you have completed the hours and are prepared to write the CATA exam. The U of W practicum programs will ensure the quality of the first 300 hours field hours and 300 Clinical hours (minimum). Your SAT will supervise the remaining 600 hours. These hours can be collected outside of your practicum course in the summer, off season, or even after you graduate.

2. Why is Practicum I only 100 hours and Practicum II & III are 250 hours?
 - a. Practicum I is intended to get a first hand look at the profession of athletic therapy in the field (50 hours) and clinical (50 hours) settings. The objective is have you observe your mentor therapist so that you can make a connection between the knowledge you will gain in the classroom with its application in the field or clinic. The expectations of Practicum II and III are that you will become proficient in every aspect of athletic therapy in both the field and clinical settings.

3. How do I get a practicum placement?
 - a. Before you register for any of the three practicum courses, you are required to meet with the coordinator of the practicum program (Valerie Pelleck – v.pelleck@uwinnipeg.ca)
 - b. You can either have a placement option to propose to the coordinator or you can ask that the coordinator suggest some options.
 - c. Practicum I
 - i. requires that you spend time in both a field (50 hours) and clinical (50 hours) setting.
 - ii. The clinical setting can be the University of Winnipeg Athletic Therapy Clinic or other community based clinics with which we have a contractual arrangement.
 - iii. Field experience can be working with one of our senior student therapists (Practicum II students or otherwise).
 - d. Practicum II
 - i. You are required to work with a contact/high risk sport (football or rugby are the most appropriate)
 - ii. Remaining hours can be with other sports such as hockey, soccer, basketball, volleyball, or track and field. You may suggest other settings such as ballet, jazz dance, swimming etc.
 - iii. You are also required to complete a maximum of 50 hours with a Community-based sporting event or Wesmen events.

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4. Can I do my practicum in the summer?
 - a. Yes you can. The summer program is condensed from May to August and can be conducted largely online. Students can work with teams in the summer that may be away from Winnipeg. Log sheets etc. are submitted electronically, and chat sessions can be arranged to connect students and instructor in the program.

5. Can I do my practicum with more than one placement for the same course?
 - a. Yes you can. As mentioned in # 2D (ii), you may fail to collect all of your hours in one season with one team. If this is the case, you will be required to collect hours with another team or sporting event.
 - b. For Practicum III, you are required to collect your 250 clinical hours at a minimum of two separate locations under two different supervisors.

6. During what terms are the Practicum courses offered?
 - a. Students can register for three semesters:
 - i. September – April
 - ii. January – August
 - iii. May – August (concentrated spring/summer session)

7. Can I do my practicum away from the U of W? Out of province?
 - a. Yes you can. Provided the host program (team/clinic) meets with the approval of the program coordinator. Once again, communication can occur on-line. Students may be required to return for the practical exam portion of the exam.

8. How am I graded during my Practicum?
 - a. The practicum program has a number of evaluation criteria.
 - i. Weekly log sheets –
 1. The student is expected to submit log sheets that list and verify hours. The student is also expected to submit a reflection portion of the weekly log sheet. This is to encourage the student to rate their learning experience and establish goals for further learning.
 2. The host supervisor also submits an evaluation of the student's weekly performance (after speaking with the student).
 - ii. Regular assignments –
 1. Students have specific assignments that have scheduled due dates.
 2. These assignments are directly related to the practical experience to help the student better understand and implement the requirements of the practicum.

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- iii. Final Paper
 - 1. The final paper is expected to be a complete review and analysis of the practicum experience. The regular assignments as mentioned above make much of the content of the paper.
 - iv. Practical exam
 - 1. The student will be expected to complete a practical exam specific to the field of clinical setting. The exam is competency based.
 - v. Host evaluation
 - 1. Your host supervisor will submit an evaluation form rating your performance and willingness to learn.
9. If I am out of province, do I have to return to do the practical exam?
- a. You may be required to return to do the practical exam. For alternate arrangements, you will need to speak with the practicum coordinator.
10. Can I get paid for my hours during my practicum?
- a. Yes you can.
11. Am I required to work at specific sports for my field practicum?
- a. As mentioned earlier, Practicum II requires that you gain experience with a contact/high risk sport (either football or Rugby).
 - b. The University of Winnipeg does have a history of successful placements with the Manitoba High School Football League for student placements (fall placements start in mid-August)
 - c. We have also placed students with local rugby teams in the summer.
12. Do I have to get all my clinical hours under the direct supervision of an Athletic Therapist or can I work with other allied health professions?
- a. This can be discussed with the program coordinator. It is possible to work with a physiotherapist, strength and conditioning, chiropractor, Massage therapist for a portion of the practicum experience providing the experience is consistent with the competencies of the practicum.
13. Do I have to be a member of the CATA/MATA?
- a. Yes you must be a member of both the CATA and MATA for practicum II and III. You do not have to be a member for practicum I.
 - b. The reason is that the CATA will not recognize any practical hours unless you are a member of both the CATA and MATA.
 - c. The program also pays for liability insurance for our Athletic therapists with whom you will be aligned as an SAT. You will only be included on this insurance if you have identified and SAT and you are a member in good standing with the CATA and MATA.

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14. What if I am not able to complete all of the necessary hours during the term?
- a. First of all you will need to assure the program coordinator that you can fulfill the required hours before approval to register for the course will be granted.
 - b. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, you must notify the program coordinator as soon as possible. If this request is made before the final date for grade submissions, the program coordinator can grant an extension. You would have to file an appeal with student records. Maximum extension is normally to the next university evaluation period.
15. What do I do if I feel it necessary to change my placement before my hours are complete?
- a. You must discuss this with the program coordinator as soon as possible.
 - b. Alternate placements may be considered in situations where the learning experience is negatively affected.

16. Who can I contact for further information:

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