How to Write Practicum Learning Objectives

Examples

Examples for Exercise 1:

Below are summaries for three practicum projects. The public health need, problem, or question for each project is in bold text.

PROJECT 1:

**Bacterial contamination in the waters of Galveston Bay can lead to variety of infections in people who use the bay for recreational activities.** A local conservation group would like me to conduct water testing to monitor levels of bacterial contamination, identify pathogens in these high-contamination areas, and present findings to marina managers and other stakeholders to propose ways to remediate problem areas.

PROJECT 2:

**My preceptor wants me to help revise her company’s employee wellness program to make it more attractive to employees and more responsive to their needs.** I will collaborate with other staff members to evaluate the company’s current program and identify areas for improvement. Specifically, my preceptor wants me to help plan, organize, and promote an on-site exercise program. In addition, I will propose and promote other projects or resources for the program, based on the results of our needs assessment.
Below is an example of a practicum opportunity written by a preceptor.

This project aims to incorporate both cultural sensitivity training and weight bias training into a seminar series that can be conducted through the Adolescent Medicine rotation. Specifically, the goal of this seminar is to provide pediatric residents, medical students, and ancillary trainees (e.g., psychology postdoctoral fellows, dietetic interns) with new knowledge about the background and theory of culturally sensitive medical practice and weight bias in the medical setting as well as provide a setting for applied practice of skills related to these two constructs. Our hope is that students will retain this knowledge and skills as they go into practice and thus over time decrease the scope of disparity that continues to occur in this country's healthcare system.

**Tasks:**
- Review relevant literature to identify key topics to include in a didactic seminar
- Assist in the development of the seminar
- Conduct feedback sessions with residents to inform development of the seminar
- Complete data collection activities, including consent paperwork and administration of pre- and post-measures
- Data management using SPSS or Excel spreadsheets

Below is one way you could summarize the above description.

During my practicum, I will assist with developing a seminar in Adolescent Medicine. This seminar will teach the background and theory of culturally sensitive medical practice and weight bias in medicine. It will also provide a setting for medical students to practice skills covered by this training. The seminar is intended for pediatric residents, medical students, and ancillary trainees such as psychology postdoctoral fellows, and dietetic interns. Working with my preceptor, I will contribute to a seminar that will address cultural disparities and weight bias in healthcare.
Examples for Exercise 2:

PROJECT 1:
- Complete training in sample collection
- Collect water samples
- Test water samples
- Identify pathogens
- Bacterial contamination levels
- Look for sources of contamination
- Analyze results
- Document findings
- Present results to marina managers, stakeholders
- Recommend improvements
- Advocate change

PROJECT 2:
- Evaluate current program
- Collaborate with other staff
- Needs assessment
- Identify existing resources
- Compile results
- Help plan/organize a new onsite exercise program
- Find/coordinate instructors
- Coordinate logistics of class
- Create additional materials (nutrition, weight management)
- Propose future projects
- Propose new resources
- Promote program

PROJECT 3:
- Conduct literature reviews
- Develop course content
- Identify key topics for the seminar
- Cultural disparities
- Weight bias
- Target: pediatric residents, medical students, and ancillary trainees
- Determine appropriate teaching formats
- Feedback sessions
- Administer pre- and post- surveys
- Informed consent forms
- SPSS/Excel
Examples for Exercise 3:

See below for a list of potential MPH foundational competencies for each of our three sample projects. For each project, we’ve provided the skill set and number for the competency and a brief statement explaining how this practicum could apply the competency.

PROJECT 1:

Evidence-Based Approaches to Public Health #2, 3, & 4: You will select appropriate water samplings methods, analyze the samples, and interpret results to provide information on water quality.

Leadership #17 and Communication #18, 19: You will present your findings to stakeholders and propose ways to improve water quality.

PROJECT 2:

Evidence-Based Approaches to Public Health #1: By evaluating the current program and conducting a needs assessment, you will select and apply epidemiological methods.

Interprofessional Practice #21: You will collaborate with staff who are not public health professionals or public health students.

Planning & Management to Promote Health #9: You will help design and coordinate a new exercise program.

Communication #18, #19: You will design and create new training materials to address employees’ needs.

Leadership #17: You may need to convince management to allow employees time off to participate in the class during workhours.

PROJECT 3:

Public Health & Health Care Systems #6 and Policy in Public Health #14: You will help develop a seminar to address social inequities in healthcare and improve healthcare in diverse populations.

Policy in Public Health #12 & #15: The seminar will likely discuss how policies and policy-making processes influence public health and health equity.

Communication #19: You will help determine appropriate public health content for the course.
Examples for Exercise 4:

Below are examples for exercise 4. For each objective, the first sentence corresponds to part 1 of the objective and the bulleted list within each objective corresponds to part 2 of the objective.

PROJECT 1:

Objective 1: Select and apply appropriate data collection methods to assess water quality in Galveston Bay.
- Select appropriate data parameters for testing.
- Complete training for appropriate data collection techniques.
- Collect water samples.
- Apply appropriate sample analysis techniques.

Objective 2: Interpret results of water sample analysis to identify pathogens and areas of high contamination.
- Identify human pathogens detected in the water samples.
- Measure and record concentration levels of pathogens.
- Identify possible sources of contamination.
- Explore solutions to improve water quality in areas of high contamination.

Objective 3: Present results and advocate possible solutions for improving water quality to marina managers and other stakeholders.
- Prepare a final report of findings.
- Design and deliver a presentation of our findings.
- Advocate ways to improve water quality in high contamination areas.

PROJECT 2:

Objective 1: Evaluate an employee wellness program at a for-profit company.
- Conduct a needs assessment to identify new objectives.
- Collaborate with staff representatives from other departments.

Objective 2: Develop and coordinate an on-site group exercise program.
- Find and coordinate course instructors.
- Coordinate logistics of the course.
- Track course participation.
- Develop marketing materials to promote the program.
- Advocate time-off for employees to participate in the program, if necessary.
Objective 3. Address additional needs for the employee wellness program identified in Objective 1.

- Create educational materials in nutrition or fitness that are based on a needs assessment.
- Propose additional resources for the program.

PROJECT 3:

Objective 1: Identify key topics in cultural health disparities and weight bias in medical practice.

- Conduct literature reviews.

Objective 2: Address social inequities in healthcare by contributing to the education of pediatric residents, medical students, and ancillary trainees.

- Assist in developing a seminar that teaches the theory and background of culturally sensitive medical practice and weight bias.
- Contribute to the course curriculum.
- Complete informed consent paperwork for the course.

Objective 3: Evaluate and further develop the curriculum.

- Conduct feedback sessions with residents participating in the seminar.
- Administer pre- and post- evaluations.
- Assist with data management using SPSS and/or Excel.

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i Project 1 examples for exercises 1-3 were adapted from a practicum completed by Tanu Uppal with the Galveston Bay Foundation. For a description of Tanu’s completed project, see “Water Quality Testing in Galveston Bay: Assessing Possible Sources of Bacteria in Galveston Bay.” Stories from the Field: Environmental & Occupational Health. Summer 2014.

ii Project 2 examples for exercises 1-3 were adapted from a practicum completed by Nimish Paripatyadar with Texas Children’s Hospital. For a description of Nimish’s completed project see “Corporate Wellness and Workplace Health: The Value of Worksite Wellness.” Stories from the Field: Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences. Spring 2013.

iii Project 3 practicum opportunity provided by Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children’s Hospital.