

## Frequently Asked Questions about WST4941C

### **What is the Practicum in Health Disparities?**

The Practicum in Health Disparities is the capstone experience for students enrolled in the Health Disparities in Society minor. It builds on topics covered in the Introduction to Health Disparities course, as well as the Category A and B electives that you have taken over the course of your undergraduate career. Ultimately, the class helps you apply your classroom learning about health inequities to a real-world context by working with a site focused on some form of health justice over the course of a semester. Students are required to work 120 hours in their chosen semester, submit regular time sheets, and complete relevant reflection/discussion assignments online.

If you are already working, volunteering, or researching with a site focused on some form of health disparities, you are welcome to request that it count for practicum credit by [reaching out to the instructor](#) to share more about the position! This can be unpaid volunteer work, paid employment, or a research position. If you are not already working, volunteering, or researching at a site, the department will help place you with a pre-approved one.

### **Are there any prerequisites for enrolling in the course?**

Yes. To enroll in the practicum, you must have already taken WST 2322, Introduction to Health Disparities. You may not enroll in both courses concurrently. You must also [formally declare the Health Disparities in Society minor through One.UF](#) before you can be enrolled in the course.

### **Can I take the course before my senior year?**

Most minors complete the practicum in their senior fall or spring, but you are eligible to complete the course earlier if you have met the prerequisites of taking the Introduction to Health Disparities course and [formally declaring the minor through One.UF](#). Students are not allowed to register concurrently for both Introduction to Health Disparities and the Practicum in Health Disparities.

### **How many hours do I need to work to complete the course successfully?**

The course requires that you work 120 hours over the course of the semester. You will work with your site supervisor to determine your specific working schedule, but as a general rule, students should plan to average about 10 hours of work per week.

### **How does placement for practicum work?**

The placement process begins with all students indicating when they intend to complete the course. If you have not yet done so, please [take the intent to complete survey](#) to indicate your preferred semester(s) and year(s) for enrolling in the practicum.

You are more than welcome to bring your own site if you already working with an organization, lab, clinic, etc. that has a focus on health disparities. Please [reach out to the instructor](#) to determine if that assignment can count for practicum credit.

If you do not already have a position working somewhere with a focus on health disparities, the department can help to place you. As we approach the semester in which you plan to enroll, the instructor will contact you to share a list of pre-approved sites and request that you take a survey to rank your placement preferences. Then, after you confirm a site, the instructor will send [an agreement form](#) that both you and your site supervisor will complete to detail your schedule and responsibilities. Once that agreement form has been completed by both parties, the instructor will officially register you for the course.

### **What kinds of sites are on the department's pre-approved list?**

Practicum students have worked with a range of organizations to complete the course. Past assignments for students have included (but are not limited to): the Alachua County Department of Health, Camp Boggy Creek, Community Hospice and Palliative Care, Gainesville 4 All, Gainesville Fire Rescue, Horizon Sunset Apartments, the North Florida Sewing Center, and the UF Pediatric Pulmonary Center. Site capacity changes each semester, so please reach out to the instructor if you would like a copy of the list and be sure to stay alert for any emails about site openings for the semester in which you would like to enroll.

### **Are the department's pre-approved sites paid or unpaid positions?**

Most of the department's current pre-approved sites are unpaid. We are actively working to find more sites that offer paid positions for our students, but in the meantime, you are welcome to count paid work towards fulfilling your practicum requirement. If you are already working somewhere with a focus on health disparities, please reach out to Dr. Williams to confirm that the nature of the work aligns with the aims of the minor.

### **What happens if my first ranked choice doesn't work out?**

The survey allows you to rank up to 4 sites. If your first choice doesn't work out and there is space at your second, we will try you placing you there (and so on until we get to your fourth choice).

In some cases, students may be placed at sites that were not on their list of ranked choices. Because sites' capacity changes all the time and the department cannot guarantee placement for your preferences, we encourage students to keep an open mind about the placement process. Even if we cannot place you at your first choice, we will do our best to match you to a site that does meaningful work related to health disparities.

### **What if I do not want to be placed at any of the pre-approved sites?**

You are welcome to bring your own site to complete the practicum! You are not required to apply to one of the sites on our pre-approved list. If there is a health disparities-focused organization, lab, clinic, program, etc. that you are already working with and would like to count it for course credit, please email the practicum instructor and let them know.

### **I am already volunteering/working at or conducting research with a site that focuses on health disparities. Will that count for credit?**

It might! Please reach out to the instructor to share more about the site and explain how you think the work aligns with ending health disparities in 2-3 sentences.

### **How does registration for practicum work?**

Once you and your site supervisor have completed an [agreement form detailing your hours and responsibilities](#) for the semester, the instructor will be able to register you for the course. The course is departmentally-controlled, and you cannot enroll yourself.

### **When can I register for the course?**

The instructor will register you for the course after there is a signed [agreement form](#) on file between you and your site supervisor.

### **Can I register for the course on my own?**

No. Registration for this course is departmentally controlled.

### **How often will the course meet?**

This course meets asynchronously, so there are no scheduled meeting days/times. Your specific work schedule and responsibilities will depend on your site needs and personal schedule, as determined by you and your supervisor. You should expect to dedicate approximately 10 hours per week to your work assignment. In addition to completing tasks related to your work assignment for the semester, you will also complete reflections and discussions online with the course instructor.

### **What if I'm a nursing major?**

Nursing majors have to complete all requirements for any minor before the fall of their junior year. We are happy to work with your schedule so that you can ensure that both the Introduction to Health Disparities course and the Practicum are completed by the start of your third year.

### **Who can I reach out to if I have more questions about the course?**

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Williams at [ci.williams@ufl.edu](mailto:ci.williams@ufl.edu)!