

MEDICAL PRACTICUM, JANUARY 2024 BAJA VERAPAZ, GUATEMALA BY THE NUMBERS

- 11 Undergraduate students
- From the US: 3 Physicians, 1 Physician Assistant, 1 Pharmacist, 2 Dentists, 1 Nurse, 1 Nurse Midwife, 1 Doctor of Midwifery, 2 PharmD students, 1 4th-year Medical student, 1 PGx student.
- From Guatemala: 2 Dentists, 1 Dental student, 6 Community Development workers, 2 Mayan-speaking Nurses, 1 Psychologist, 3 Mayan-speaking Auxiliary Nurses, 8 English to Spanish Translators, 4 Mayan-Translators, 4 ALAS Traveling Birth Control Clinic Workers.
- 1413 Medical Consultations
- 2424 Prescriptions Filled
- 422 Tooth Extractions
- 359 Lab Tests
- \$28,948 Used for reduced price medicines and medical/dental supplies



INFORMATION

Learn more about
participating in or donating to
Manchester's Medical Practicum at
medicalpracticum.manchester.edu



GUATEMALA Medical Practicum NASC-310



A Short-Term Experience in Global Health



A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY AND SERVICE

The Medical Practicum at Manchester University is more than a three-credit class – it's a life-changing experience for students. While the nearly three-week-long excursion to Guatemala is excellent for anyone who is motivated, it's probably most useful for those with a future in health care who have yet to apply to professional and graduate schools. It often helps students to discover their true passions and steer their next steps. The faculty-guided practicum partners students with a team of U.S. physicians, dentists and other health professionals to accompany a local development organization and health care providers in serving patients of all ages in Guatemalan communities, where care is in short supply. The practicum team travels through mountains by bus and 4-wheel-drive vehicles to remote villages – without much running water or electricity. Besides serving hundreds of patients with medical and dental needs, practicum students experience a culture different from their own and observe first-hand the challenges faced by the people of this developing area. It's about improving the world by thinking generally about equity and social justice.

MEDICAL PRACTICUM HISTORY

Founded in 1981 by Dr. Ed Miller, the practicum turned 43 in January 2024, with the most recent trips led by Dr. Jeff Osborne; previous years went to Nicaragua, Guatemala, Panama, Honduras, Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. 452 Manchester students, along with 147 different health care providers and 72 other staff have served more than 50,000 patients since its inception. Over half of practicum alumni have entered health care careers, including 102 physicians, 32 pharmacists, and 28 dentists. 34 students have returned as providers.



AN EMBODIMENT OF MISSION

This short-term experience in global health exemplifies Manchester's mission to graduate persons who lead “principled, productive, and compassionate lives that improve the human condition,” and is a testament to Manchester's distinguished reputation in the sciences and commitment to excellence in preparation for health care careers. Providers pay their own travel expenses, but it takes donations and grants to purchase medical and dental supplies.

