

**Medical Practicum,  
January 2017  
Alto Wangki-Bocay,  
Nicaragua  
By the Numbers**

- 17 students
- 4 physicians, 2 physician assistants, 2 dentists, 1 pharmacist, 1 athletic trainer and 2 agricultural specialists from U.S.
- 3 physicians, 3 nurses, 2 health workers, 2 medical students and 3 agricultural specialists from Nicaragua
- 1477 medical consultations
- 2821 prescriptions filled
- 845 vaccinations given
- 223 dental patients and 513 extractions
- 332 pigs and 174 horses dewormed
- 350 lab tests performed
- \$18,658 used for reduced price medicines and medical/dental supplies
- Thousands of dollars worth of medicines and medical/dental supplies acquired through donation

# Nicaragua

## Medical Practicum

Learn more about participating in  
or donating to Manchester's  
Medical Practicum at  
[www.medicalpracticum.org](http://www.medicalpracticum.org)



## 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 MU students. While the nearly three-week-long excursion to Nicaragua 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, nurses and other health care professionals to serve patients of all ages in Nicaraguan communities, where quality care is in short supply. The practicum team travels through mountains, jungles and rivers – by bus, 4-wheel-drive vehicles and dugout canoes – to remote villages – often without running water or electricity.

Besides serving hundreds of patients with medical and dental needs, as well as animals in need of veterinary care, practicum students experience a culture very different from their own and observe first-hand the challenges faced by the people of this developing area.

## Medical Practicum History



Founded in 1981 by Dr. Ed Miller, the practicum turned 35 in 2016. For more than 20 years, the last nine led by Dr. Jeff Osborne, it has served villagers in Nicaragua; previous trips were made to Guatemala, Panama, Honduras, Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. At least 373 Manchester students, along with 120 health care providers and 65 other staffers have served more than 41,000 patients since its inception. Nearly half of practicum alumni have entered health care careers, including 87 physicians and 19 dentists.

## An Embodiment of Mission

The practicum 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 excellence in preparation for health care careers. Students pay their own travel expenses, but it takes donations and grants to purchase medical and dental supplies.

