

Medical Practicum, January 2020 Baja Verapaz, Guatemala By the Numbers

- 17 undergraduate students
- 1 pharmacy student
- 7 physicians, 2 physician assistants, 1 nurse practitioner, 1 pharmacist, 1 dentist and 1 medical dosimetrist from U.S.
- 1 nurse, 9 auxiliary nurses, and 8 community development workers from Guatemala
- 1,584 medical consultations
- 3,293 prescriptions filled
- 121 dental patients and 269 extractions
- 649 lab tests performed
- \$25,482.84 used for reduced price medicines and medical/dental supplies
- Thousands of dollars worth of medicines and medical/dental supplies acquired through donation

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

Guatemala

Medical Practicum

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 MU 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 40 in January 2020, with the most recent trips led by Dr. Jeff Osborne; previous years went to Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Honduras, Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. 429 Manchester students, along with 139 different health care providers and 68 other staffers have served more than 47,305 patients since its inception. Over half of practicum alumni have entered health care careers, including 94 physicians, 31 pharmacists, and 25 dentists. Thirty-two student participants 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.

