

SYLLABUS
NASC-310 Medical Practicum
Dr. Jeff Osborne

Course Objective. To provide a short-term experience in global health to students that involves U.S. health care providers and to provide health care to under-served people in a less-developed country. The course creates a work/study program opportunity for students to experience the culture of a rural, less developed area of the world and to learn the needs and challenges in health care delivery systems. Offered on a Pass/No Pass basis only. The course is open to students from any major.

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Location. Communities in Alta Verapaz and Baja Verapaz regions of Guatemala.

Work To Be Done. We will assist in staffing health clinics in both medical and dental services. Students will work with the health professionals who are part of the medical practicum team, assisting in the following areas: patient reception, laboratory, medical, dental, and pharmacy.

Expectations of Students. You are expected to actively and professionally participate in all clinical, daily living, and cultural aspects of the three week experience and follow the policies outlined by the instructor. Here is an important rule to live by: “Never embarrass yourself as a human being, Manchester University as your home campus, or me as your professor.”

You will:

1. Assist doctors, dentists, pharmacists, and nurses, who are part of the Medical Practicum team, in providing health care.
2. Interact with patients of all ages with a great variety of health needs.
3. Become immersed in the culture of a developing country.
4. Experience being a minority, an outsider, and feel the frustration of insufficient language ability.
5. Live for a few weeks without the luxuries often considered to be necessities.
6. Serve the host community.
7. Participate in pre-trip meetings and packing sessions.
8. Complete pre-trip meetings, pre-trip packing sessions, reading assignments, a daily journal, a feedback form, a reflective essay, and a group presentation.

Grading. 3 credits, Pass/No Pass. You will participate in pre-trip meetings and packing sessions, keep a daily journal during the trip, turn in a reflective essay after returning from the trip, and participate in a group oral presentation in Science Seminar during the spring of 2025. Evaluation of individual students will be based on a positive response to each of the following questions:

1. Did the student actively participate in the pre-trip meetings and packing sessions?
2. Did the student actively and professionally participate in all aspects of the clinic?
3. Did the student actively and professionally participate in all cultural aspects of the trip?
4. Did the student follow the policies outlined by the professor?
5. Was the student a positive representative of Manchester University?
6. Did the student submit a daily journal at the end of the trip?
7. Did the student submit an evaluation and reflective essay of their experience? Did the student adequately discuss how the experience impacted her/him and what she/he learned about the history, culture, healthcare, and politics of the host country?

8. Did the student actively participate in the group oral presentation following the trip?

Travel. We will fly to Guatemala City, go by bus from Guatemala City to the region of the Verapaces, and then in pickups and trucks to the three villages, in which we'll stay for where we'll stay for approximately 14 days.

Logistics. We will sleep on the floor in schools and other buildings. Showering facilities and latrines will be varied. Electricity will be intermittent if available at all. Meals will be prepared by community people. The diet consists of food available locally: rice, beans, tortillas, eggs, cheese, some meat, some vegetables, and some fruit. Our trip and work is being arranged in coordination with the Guatemalan non-governmental organization Fundenor Ab'Al'Aq and the Guatemalan Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance.