

Medical Practicum, January 2022 Baja Verapaz, Guatemala By the Numbers

- 12 undergraduate students
- 3 physicians, 2 physician assistants, 1 nurse practitioner/certified nurse midwife, 2 pharmacists and 1 dentist from the U.S.
- 3 dentists, 13 interpreters and 5 community development workers from Guatemala
- 1,452 medical consultations
- 2,605 prescriptions filled
- 199 dental consultations and 272 extractions
- 256 lab tests performed
- \$29,688 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 medicalpracticum.manchester.edu

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 43 in January 2023, with the most recent trips led by Dr. Jeff Osborne; previous years went to Nicaragua, Guatemala, Panama, Honduras, Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. 441 Manchester students, along with 140 different health care providers and 69 other staffers have served more than 49,000 patients since its inception. Over half of practicum alumni have entered health care careers, including 102 physicians, 31 pharmacists, and 27 dentists. Thirty-three 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.

