

APBI 496 (3/6C) Applied Animal Biology Practicum - (3 or 6 credit course)
Faculty of Land and Food Systems, University of British Columbia

Course Objectives:

This practicum is designed for students to gain experience in potential fields of future employment working with animals. Students will apply knowledge from previous coursework in Applied Animal Biology to careers in wildlife rehabilitation, animal shelter management, research and farm animal management.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Apply key principles and concepts of Applied Animal Biology to the professions of wildlife rehabilitation, animal shelter management, research animal management and farm management;
2. Understand the professional field in which the practicum takes place, including its governance, operations and standards of performance;
3. Relate animal welfare and animal management to practical situations in animal care and human-animal interactions;
4. Recognize and discuss the complex ethical issues within the practicum field;
5. Create an applied communications piece for use at the field location; and,
6. Summarize and communicate experiential learning.

Course Format:

This is an experiential learning course where students will get hands-on experience with general animal husbandry and facility operations, animal health and welfare management, and learn from professionals and collaboration with other practicum students. The practicum can take place in any term, as based on the needs of the field location.

The 6 credit practicum is 300-400 hours of experience plus a half-term progress report, 5,000 word final report (min 20 primary refs) and an applied communications piece such as a poster, brochure, video, webpage, manual etc. that can be used at the field location.

The 3 credit practicum is 150-200 hours of experience plus a half-term progress report, 2,500 word final report (min 10 primary refs) and an applied communications piece such as a poster, brochure, video, webpage, manual etc. that can be used at the field location.

Course Requirements:

3rd year standing or higher; APBI 314 and/or ABPI 315 recommended. APBI 496 is restricted elective course which is graded; it is available to APBI majors and non-APBI majors.

Students will be required to apply to APBI 496 and be accepted by an Academic Supervisor within Applied Animal Biology. Academic Supervisors are UBC faculty members, and can include adjunct faculty.

Field locations will be recommended by the Academic Supervisor, or they can be proposed by the student and approved by the Academic Supervisor. Field Supervisors are recognized professionals in their area of expertise who work permanently at the field location.

Students are expected to complete any health and safety training required of the practicum location prior to commencement.

Course Schedule:

The student's weekly work schedule is agreed upon in advance by the Field and Academic Supervisors and the student, and set out in writing before the student starts their work experience. No room is required on campus and teaching assistants are not required.

Assessment, Evaluation, and Grading:

The course assessment will include successful completion of experience hours (within eight consecutive months) as evaluated by the Field Supervisor, plus satisfactory completion of the respective reporting requirements. The final report should be submitted within 30 days of completion of the experience hours, unless otherwise agreed to in advance by the Academic Supervisor.

The final report can be in one of several forms (literature review, data analysis and reporting or policy paper) but should include:

1/3 Focus on Student Experience

- a description of the student's reasons for selecting this experience
- summary of the experience; location, hours worked, duration, contact information of field supervisor, basic duties/task/responsibilities
- an analysis of the success in achieving course learning outcomes, including a description of any challenges encountered in achieving those outcomes
- was the student able to apply knowledge gained in their academic studies to the practicum (give examples); and if gaps between knowledge from the classroom and their application in the field existed, what were they
- what "new" knowledge was gained from the practicum

2/3 Focus on Research Question

- research question and why selected, how applies to practicum experience
- integration of assigned readings provided by Academic or Field Supervisors and/or relevant literature, and a discussion on how the student applied this information to practicum experience
- an emphasis on comprehension of the applied concepts and critical thinking about the practicum experience

- a discussion on the ethical issues and the challenges currently faced by the profession, with additional references from the literature to demonstrate independent research abilities

An applied communications piece can include:

- a brochure or poster for practioners or the public
- a manual or guidelines for practioners
- a website, blog, digital presentation for practioners or the public
- or any other communications piece that can be used at the field location, agreed to by the student and supervisors

40% Field Supervisor evaluation (form provided)

10% Half-term progress report (form will be provided for both student and Field Supervisor)

40% Final report (graded by Academic Supervisor)

10% Applied communication piece (graded by Academic Supervisor)

100%