



Two-year Mixed Psychotherapy and Research Practicum

Department of Supportive Care, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network.

Year 1: January 10 - May 31, 2024

Year 2: September 2024 – April 2025

Master of Social Work Practicum at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre: Shaping Empathy, Expertise, and Innovation. The Department of Supportive Care at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre brings together experts from various fields to provide comprehensive assistance for those affected by cancer. With three main divisions—Psychosocial Oncology, Palliative Care, and Cancer Rehabilitation & Survivorship—we address the emotional, psychological, social, practical, and spiritual needs of patients and families from diagnosis to survivorship. Committed to advancing the field, our goal is to excel in clinical care, research, and education.

Program Focus. This practicum offers a two-year immersive experience at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network (UHN), exclusively for Master of Social Work students at the University of Toronto. The practicum combines direct patient care with research involvement. Students spend two-thirds of their time in direct clinical care, while the remaining third is dedicated to research initiatives.

Duration. The placement spans two distinct phases: Year 1 concentrates on basic psychotherapeutic principles and psychosocial assessment, while Year 2 shifts focus to more complex psychotherapeutic interventions. Throughout the two years, students will engage with research and may be offered the possibility to conduct an independent project. Students are required to commit for their Year 1 and Year 2 placements.

Patient Population. Students will work with two distinct populations: 1) adults facing advanced cancer and their primary caregivers; and 2) parents of children diagnosed with cancer receiving treatment at the Hospital for Sick Children. Please note that students will not work directly with children.

Training Methods. Students receive diverse training, including: direct observation by field instructors, feedback on video-recorded sessions conducted by students, review of other video-recorded material, direct observation of clinicians in the department, case presentations during interdisciplinary supervision meetings, access to research and clinical rounds and workshops (when available), and shadowing other professionals in the cancer center. Students are required to video-record their encounters with clients.

Desired Qualities and Expectations. Our ideal candidates are characterized by a collaborative spirit and an inclination for self-directed and self-reflexive learning and un-learning. We prioritize individuals who are at ease with patients discussing mortality, exploring existential issues, and experiencing intense emotions. As students will be working with individuals and families navigating complex challenges, their ability to provide empathetic and grounded support is essential.

Resume Submission Instructions. Please submit a detailed resume that provides a comprehensive overview of your academic background, relevant professional experiences, and any relevant certifications. Highlight any prior involvement in healthcare settings or related fields.

Cover Letter Submission Instructions. In your cover letter, please address the following points:

- **Alignment:** Clearly articulate why you believe this practicum aligns with your academic and career aspirations. Please discuss what you believe you can bring to this experience.
- **Desired Qualities:** Address your ability to work collaboratively, your inclination for self-directed and self-reflexive learning, and your comfort with addressing emotionally charged topics. Provide examples, if possible.
- **Relevant Experience:** Discuss any past experiences, coursework, or training that showcases your ability to provide empathetic support in challenging situations. If applicable, mention any experiences working with clients.

Conclusion. In conclusion, we invite you to embark on this rewarding journey with us, where your dedication and compassion can make a profound impact on the lives of those facing cancer. As we typically receive a high volume of applications for a limited number of spots, we encourage you to apply with genuine enthusiasm. We eagerly await your application and the potential opportunity to welcome you into our close-knit community of dedicated practitioners.

Practicum Requirements:

- Immunizations per PHA Guidelines
- N95 Respirator/Mask Fitting
- Covid Vaccinations
- Influenza Vaccination (Flu shot)
- Police Reference/Vulnerable Sector Check
- Comfort working with the population being served
- Comprehensive report writing and documentation
- UHN mandatory training to be completed prior to beginning the placement

Does your practicum require any previous experience? If yes, please specify.

Previous experience with counselling is an asset.

Please indicate whether this practicum will be in-person, remote or hybrid.

Hybrid

Please indicate whether this practicum will involve direct work or a mix of direct and indirect.

Mix of direct and indirect

Number of practicums offered?

2

Field Instructor(s)' name and credentials (BSW and/or MSW)

Carmine Malfitano, PhD, MSW, RSW

Do you require a resume? Or resume and cover letter?

Resume and Cover Letter (see instructions above).

Accessibility Considerations:

- Will the student have access to a private space for notes or computer use? No
- Are there breaks between clients/patients/meetings? Yes
- Is the practicum considered fast-paced? Medium
- Is there a high noise level in the practicum? Low
- Is the site wheelchair accessible? Yes
- What are the physical demands of the practicum? Attendance at in person meetings and in-person sessions with clients
- Are there any other accessibility considerations that potential applicants with disabilities should be aware of? No

Students registered with University of Toronto Accessibility Services may receive appropriate accommodations for practicum settings. To register: <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/> or call 416-978-8060

If you are interested in this practicum, please send a cover letter and resume to miri.ben.dat@utoronto.ca by 4 pm on September 28th, 2023. Applications will be forwarded on to the site.