

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY
Practicum/Internship On-Site Participation – Summer 2020/Fall 2020/Spring 2021
COVID-19 Risk Acknowledgement/Release

The following acknowledgement does not apply to those students who are employed by an agency independent of the University. If a student is engaged in a private employment relationship with an agency, the student should discuss any employment matters related to COVID-19 with their employer.

Due to the rapid onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and because the health and safety of its students, faculty and staff is a top priority, Baylor University announced in April 2020 that all classes for the summer of 2020 would be conducted online, including practicums and internships. Students were instructed to coordinate with faculty supervisors and agency directors regarding practicum/internship activities that could be engaged in remotely to minimize the health risks involved. Since that time, many countries, states, and local governments have issued varying pandemic mitigation efforts, including stay-at-home orders, business operation restrictions, and face covering requirements, in order to reduce the number of those needing serious medical attention as the pandemic has progressed.

As Baylor University moves into the 2020/2021 academic year, the University will continue to instruct students to coordinate, where possible, practicum/internship activities that can be engaged in remotely to minimize the health risks involved. However, Baylor University recognizes that clinical rotations, practicums/internships and general experiential learning in-person experiences are essential to many professions. Baylor University wants students to be fully aware of the possible risks they face when choosing to engage in these experiences. Baylor is committed to its students' success, and the Department will work with its students individually to answer questions and facilitate appropriate accommodations with training sites for an enriching practicum/internship experience.

By signing this document, I hereby acknowledge and agree I have read and understand fully the following:

- COVID-19 causes severe illness in people. Reported illnesses have ranged from mild to severe, including resulting in death. COVID-19 is highly contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person to person between people who are in close contact. Much remains unknown about COVID-19 and further research may reveal additional information about the disease, including long-term complications that may result from contracting it. **AT THIS TIME, THERE IS NO VACCINE TO PROTECT AGAINST COVID-19 AND NO MEDICATIONS APPROVED TO TREAT IT.**
- The University recognizes COVID-19 risk may vary widely depending on the locality in question, the behaviors of individuals present, and the timing through which those circumstances are viewed. COVID-19 could spread rapidly in a short time frame even when mitigation efforts are present.
- Widespread transmission of COVID-19 would translate into large numbers of people needing medical care at the same time. Public health and healthcare systems may become overloaded, with elevated rates of hospitalizations and deaths. Other critical infrastructure, such as law enforcement, emergency medical services, and transportation may also be affected. **Return travel may be restricted, leaving travelers stranded in place.**

By signing this document, I hereby acknowledge and agree I have read and understand fully the following:

- Baylor University has not assessed the safety of practicum/internship sites in light of the risks created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Baylor University has also not assessed any agency's practicum/internship adherence to any federal/state government/agency's recommended COVID-19 pandemic guidance.
- Discussions of possible risks and hazards that may be inherent in the practicum/internship have been included in my University curriculum, and **I am aware of the risks, including possibility of injury, illness, other loss, or death from travel, the acts of others, the use or misuse of the agency's facility and equipment, the practicum/internship activity itself, or flawed compliance with a policy or procedure, or even possibly the criminal acts of others.**
- Inherent risk exists during the practicum/internship from exposure to infectious diseases, including tuberculosis, COVID-19, hepatitis, HIV or other airborne or blood-borne pathogens.

- **The practicum/internship experience may be impacted by COVID-19 conditions in unpredictable ways**, including delay, suspension, or cancellation of all or a part of the original intended experience. The practicum/internship experience may transition all/part of the experience to an online format, to another clinical site, and/or other measures the University or agency may deem necessary to protect human health.
- The University has the ability to create remote and/or independent study options for the student in lieu of an in-person practicum/internship or will work to place the student in an alternate practicum/internship if requested. If at any time the student cannot, or is not comfortable continuing in-person, he/she should immediately speak to their course instructor for transition to a remote experience; the student should realize that depending on the graduation requirements, this decision may delay completion of the student's educational program with the University.

By signing this document, I hereby acknowledge and agree I have read and understand fully the following:

- **By participating in the practicum/internship, the student is assuming full responsibility for his/her wellbeing.** The student is aware of his/her medical needs. If the student encounters a risk about which the student is uncertain during the practicum/internship experience, or if the student is unsure about a policy or procedure of the agency, the student will ask questions, seek instructions, or contact a supervisor at the agency or on campus for help. The student will ask for or attain appropriate personal protective equipment and/or accommodations if needed to allow safe completion of the practicum/internship and will cooperate with all discussions about implementation of any requested accommodation.
- The student agrees that protection against COVID-19 is a shared responsibility, and he/she will:
 - adhere to any federal, state, and local government COVID-19 directives for the location in question,
 - adhere to CDC and agency guidelines specifically related to the type of practicum/internship activity in regards to COVID-19,
 - adhere to any health and safety rules of both the University and any training site to which they are assigned as part of the practicum/internship experience. These health and safety rules may include, but are not limited to, wearing a face covering and appropriate personal protective equipment, social distancing measures, engaging in appropriate hygiene practices and cleaning protocols, and appropriately quarantining or self-isolating after the start of symptoms or exposure to COVID-19 per the policy in place at the time of occurrence.
- **With full understanding of the aforementioned risks of the practicum/internship, the student for himself/herself and on behalf of his/her heirs, successors, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, as relating to his/her voluntary participation in practicum/internship activities and involvement, knowingly and voluntarily waives and releases and forever discharges, indemnifies and holds harmless Baylor University, its officers, employees, agents, or regents, (“RELEASEES”), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INFECTION, ILLNESS, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, including but not limited to those caused by the ACTS, OMISSIONS, OR NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASEES or others, to the fullest extent permitted by law.**

I also acknowledge that I am 18 years or older, that I have read this document carefully and fully understand its contents, and that I have given up substantial rights by signing it. I agree that, should any provision or aspect of this Release be found to be unenforceable, all remaining provisions of the Release will remain in full force and effect. I sign it freely and voluntarily without any inducement.

Student Signature

Date

This document may be executed in one or more counterparts, all of which shall constitute one agreement. Electronically signed, and facsimile, scanned, and photographed copies of this Agreement shall be considered originals and binding on the Parties for all purposes.

NOTE: For students at LHSO, the nursing school will be providing your PPE for clinical.

Student Name _____ Semester/Year _____

Address _____, _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Practicum/Internship Site Name _____

Address _____, _____

Site Supervisor _____

Title _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Practicum/Internship Site Name _____

Address _____, _____

Site Supervisor _____

Title _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Practicum/Internship Site Name _____

Address _____, _____

Site Supervisor _____

Title _____

Phone _____ Email _____