

Global Disease Biology 187 (GDB 187)
GDB 187 Practicum; GDB 187, 189, and 189D

The Global Disease Biology Practicum provides an opportunity for students to develop research skills, demonstrate critical thinking, write a substantial paper with close faculty interaction, and be creative in a scientific environment. During their Sophomore or Junior year students will enroll in a course known as Global Disease Biology 187 (GDB 187, 3 units) that begins the process of developing this opportunity. However, this document will serve as an introduction to the practicum requirement in general and as such will be made available to all students who are entering the major regardless of 'class' standing.

Global Disease Biology is one of only two majors at the University of California, Davis (UCD) that requires its students to submit a practicum in order to graduate. For those who are unfamiliar, a 'practicum' is a course of study that requires students to make practical use of their skills and knowledge. For GDB purposes, this practicum usually takes on the form of laboratory or field-based research, or a researched synthesis paper on a topic of the student's choosing. However, the option for a student to propose an alternative practicum style is always open but will require approval by the master advisor, Johan Leveau. Through the Practicum requirement students will emphasize one particular area of interest within the construct of 'global disease biology.' This obviously includes a very wide variety of interests, and as such you will be given 25 units of 'Restricted Electives' in order to take university courses, of your choosing, to better prepare yourself for the Practicum. These classes will relate to your practicum topic as well as offer you a chance to explore potential career interests and acquire pertinent knowledge. Restricted Electives are required to be upper division and letter graded, however exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis. For example, if one of your restricted electives has a lower division prerequisite, you will likely be allowed to count the lower division as well as the upper division class; talk to a GDB advisor for more details. Students will fill out a 'Restricted Elective' sheet in GDB 187 in which they list out the courses they chose and provide a short rationale for how the classes will assist them in their professional and academic goals.

Most students will complete their practicum within one to two quarters (there is no time limit, however) and as such will receive 'internship' units to compensate them for the time spent researching. GDB 189 (3 units) and GDB 189D (1 unit) are the method by which we distribute these internship units. While conducting research, you are allowed to enroll in GDB 189 *twice* for a total of six units. Once you are ready to write out your final practicum paper, you will enroll in GDB 189D to signify that you will be submitting your practicum paper in that quarter (i.e. you may be enrolled in GDB 189 and 189D at the same time). It is important to note that neither GDB 189 nor GDB 189D are 'classes' in the sense that you go to a physical classroom for instruction – they are simply units to allow you to devote some time to your research project.

In short, the Practicum is a unique and exciting part of the Global Disease Biology major that gives students a truly invaluable hands-on experience. Similar to most other large projects, it is *extremely* beneficial for you to start planning early so you are not crunched for time (read: stressed out) in your Junior and/or Senior year. Further questions on the Practicum requirement can be

addressed to the GDB advising office in Hutchison 150, and/or through email at gdb-advise@ucdavis.edu.