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# Science & Global Change Practicum

## CPSG 230/240/250, CPSP 359G or Other

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Spring 2026

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### Instructors

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	<u>Dr. Thomas R. Holtz, Jr.</u>	<u>Dr. John W. Merck, Jr.</u>
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### Undergraduate Teaching Assistants

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	<u>Cat Faulkner-MacDonagh</u>	<u>Kathleen Lehman</u>
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	<u>Alaine Sathuluri</u>	
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Office Hours:	Centreville 1218, TBA	

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### Classroom

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CCC 1100 for meetings; ESJ Building for Scholars Academic Showcase. However, there are no regular meeting times; see “Course Organization” for details.

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### Course Organization

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There are no formal meeting times for the course. There are important required events (due dates for submissions and the Academic Showcase itself, most especially.) The meetings in CCC 1205 are not required, but we very greatly encourage you to make them if you possibly can.

- Tues. 2/3 CCC 1100, 6:30-7:30 pm General Orientation
- Tues. 3/3 CCC 1100, 6:30-7:30 pm Poster Techniques
- Tues. 4/14 CCC 1100, 6:30-7:30 pm Practicum & Poster Troubleshooting
- Mon. 4/x Online registration for Academic Showcase due
- Fri. 4/x Poster file drafts uploaded on ELMS. Please have them as complete as possible. If no changes are required, this will be the version that is used; however, if Holtz & Merck spot errors, we will get back to you and need the revision back ASAP.
- Fri. 4/x **Final** poster files due on ELMS.
- Tues. 4/28 Testimonial videos must be uploaded to YouTube & URL posted on ELMS
- **Fri. 5/1 ESJ, 4-5:30 pm Scholars Academic Showcase**
- Mon. 5/4 CCC 1100, 5:30-7 pm Post-Practicum Pizza Party & SGC Wrap-Up

- Fri. 5/8 Reflection (and, for some, Annotated Bibliography, Timeline, and POA) due online; Time Sheet & SGC Citation Completion Checklist turned in.

## Course Grades

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## Requirements

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Your specific requirements for the SGC practicum depend on which course you are taking to fulfill the Practicum. Note below what steps are needed to fulfill the requirements:

- **Complete your project or course:**
  - For CPSG 230/240/250 students you must complete the appropriate number of on-site hours for the credit hours for which you have enrolled: 35 hours for 1 credit and 80 hours for 2 credits; for CPSP 359G students you must complete at least 125 hours for 3 credits. Naturally you must also complete the duties to which you agreed when setting up the project. Go to to <http://www.geol.umd.edu/sgc/docs/verification.pdf> to download the project completion Verification Form.
  - For those enrolled in other courses, complete whatever requirements are listed in their syllabus.
- **Create and Present your Poster at the Scholars Academic Showcase:** As of the beginning of the semester, the exact nature and schedule of the Scholars Academic Showcase are still being worked out. In some form or other, you will present your posters about your practicum experience at the Scholars Academic Showcase, regardless of the course you took in order to complete the practicum. You must apply to participate in the Academic Showcase by **April X**. Your presentation will be in a public forum that will be attended by current and future instructors, advisors, and, possibly, employers. Your presentation is an excellent opportunity to bring yourself to their (positive) attention.
- **Create and Post a short (90–120 second) Testimonial Video:** This is done as a YouTube video of you explaining your project, with a QR code linked to the video on your poster.
- **Post a pdf of your poster linked to your academic portfolio by the Academic Showcase date:** (and make sure to provide us with its URL!)
- **Complete and turn in your preliminary SGC Citation Completion Checklist:** due on ELMS by last day of classes, May 8. (But note: there is no reason you can't turn it in earlier!)
- **Keep up your Portfolio maintenance**
- (If you did not do so last semester) **Complete the Program Evaluation**

If you are enrolled in CPSG 230, 240, or 250, or CPSP 359G, you additionally must complete the following:

- **Turn in a signed Time Sheet** (<http://www.geol.umd.edu/sgc/docs/practimesheet.pdf> or an equivalent format used by your site) on ELMS documenting your work.
- **Post a reflection essay online** reviewing your time as a practicum student. This is due by the last day of classes (May 8)

Finally, those students in CPSP 359G have two additional items to complete, both submitted on ELMS by the last day of the semester:

- **Turn in a Project Timeline:** This is not the same thing as the time sheet. This is an outline of how your project unfolded over the course of its time.

- **Turn in a Practicum Observation & Analysis (POA):** This essay is a more detailed examination of the process of doing your practicum work.

### Grade Scale (CPSG 230/240/250 or CPSP 359G)

The numbers given represent the thresholds that must be passed in order to reach that grade (for example, A+ is 97.000... and any number greater). There is no rounding for letter grades; the thresholds must be passed. F is any grade below D-. Thresholds: 97, A+; 93, A; 90, A-; 87, B+; 83, B; 80, B-; 77, C+; 73, C; 70, C-; 67, D+; 63, D; 60, D-; < 60, F.

The Final Grade is the algebraic sum based on the numerical grades.

### Grade Components (CPSG 230/240/250)

ITEM	PERCENTAGE
Verification Form	35%
Time Sheet	5%
Poster	40%
Testimonial Video	10%
Reflection Essay	5%
Portfolio Maintenance	5%

### Grade Components (CPSP 359G)

ITEM	PERCENTAGE
Verification Form	20%
Time Sheet	5%
Poster	25%
Testimonial Video	10%
Reflection Essay	5%
Portfolio Maintenance	5%
Project Timeline	5%
Practicum Observation & Analysis (POA)	20%

SGC students taking an approved-Practicum class not run by Holtz & Merck (e.g., CPSP 249T, CPSP 359S, etc.) will receive a grade based on the requirements of those courses. **HOWEVER**, you are still required to provide the following deliverable items in order to consider your course as having fulfilled SGC's Practicum requirement:

- Present your poster at the Academic Showcase
- Poster uploaded as pdf on your Portfolio
- Testimonial Video
- Citation Checklist
- Portfolio maintenance
- Program evaluation (if not done last semester)

**IMPORTANT!!:** Each and every person **MUST** do their own poster. This is true even if you were collaborators on the same exact project. Each poster must be individualized (although of course there will be some overlap if you are doing the same project!)

**IMPORTANT!!:** A grade of "0" will be assigned for late items the day after they are due; this will be changed if you provide them. Any item not turned in by the end of final exam period will have a permanent grade of "0", unless special arrangements are made in advance of this date between the student

and both faculty. “I forgot to turn it in” or “I was busy with other courses” do not represent “special arrangements”; you must be responsible for your own grade and graded items. Course grades will be finalized the last day of exams.

A guide is available to help you construct your poster [here](#).