MPH Practicum

On-site Mentor Orientation
What is a practicum?

- A required experience for students in the Master of Public Health (MPH) program
- Opportunity to apply public health knowledge and skills
- Planned, supervised, and evaluated practice experience
- Supervised by a preceptor qualified to evaluate the professional competence of the student
- 3 credits (160 hours direct practicum work, plus up to 40 hours work on the paper and presentation)
What are the common learning objectives?

- Apply and test public health concepts and theories in practice settings
- Implement one or more of the ten essential services of public health
- Utilize problem-solving skills to assess and analyze public health issues
- Propose and, to the extent possible, implement effective intervention strategies
- Justify the importance of interdisciplinary teamwork to address public health problems
- Learn to function successfully as a public health professional in a work setting
What are the 10 essential services?

**CDC's List of 10 Essential Public Health Services**

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure competent public and personal health care workforces.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Conduct research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

Source: CDC
What are the negotiated learning objectives & competencies?

• Student negotiates 3-5 additional learning objectives specific to the practicum project
• Description of what the student hopes to achieve
• Expressed in a way that can be measured
• State which UM MPH program competencies are addressed by accomplishing the learning objectives
• Student is responsible for taking a lead on negotiating the additional learning objectives
What are the UM MPH competencies?

Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health

1. Apply epidemiological methods to the breadth of settings and situations in public health practice

2. Select quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate

3. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate

4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice
What are the UM MPH competencies?

**Public Health & Health Care Systems**

5. Compare the organization, structure and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across national and international settings

6. Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and societal levels
What are the UM MPH competencies?

Planning & Management to Promote Health

7. Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities' health

8. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs

9. Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention

10. Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management

11. Select methods to evaluate public health programs
What are the UM MPH competencies?

Policy in Public Health

12. Discuss multiple dimensions of the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence

13. Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes

14. Advocate for political, social and economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations

15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity
What are the UM MPH competencies?

Leadership

16. Apply principles of leadership, governance and management, which include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration and guiding decision making

17. Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges
What are the UM MPH competencies?

**Communication**

18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors

19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation

20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content
What are the UM MPH competencies?

Interprofessional Practice
21. Perform effectively on interprofessional teams

Systems Thinking
22. Apply systems thinking tools to a public health issue
What are the UM MPH competencies?

**Generalist Concentration Only**

1. Gather, integrate and analyze descriptive health data from rural or frontier settings.
2. Identify the common demographic characteristics of rural or frontier areas and their implications for provision of public health services.
3. Explain the challenges associated with provision of environmental health services in the context of rural or frontier areas.
4. Demonstrate basic understanding and respect for a multiplicity of values, believes, traditions and experiences and feelings of satisfaction or distress stemming from social determinants in rural or frontier settings.
5. Utilize basic statistical skills to reason about problems associated with the populations of low density and widespread geographic dispersion.
What are the UM MPH competencies?

Community Health and Populations Sciences Concentration Only

1. Assess Needs, Resources, and Capacity for Health Education/Promotion
2. Plan Health Education/Promotion
3. Implement Health Education/Promotion
4. Conduct Evaluation and Research Related to Health Education/Promotion
5. Administer and Manage Health Education/Promotion
6. Serve as a Health Education/Promotion Resource Person
7. Communicate, Promote, and Advocate for Health, Health Education/Promotion, and the Profession
What is the role of the on-site mentor?

- Attends one planning meeting with the faculty advisor and student
- Negotiates the student practicum plan
- Supervises the student in the worksite
- Provides guidance during regularly scheduled meeting times
- Reviews the student’s written report
- Attends the student’s oral presentation
- Approves/disapproves the student’s successful completion of the practicum
What are the minimum qualifications for an on-site mentor?

Training and/or experiences that assists the student in the application of public health skills and knowledge developed during the MPH program.

- MPH degree is preferred, but not required
Is it necessary for all activities to occur on-site?

• No, activities can occur on and off the mentor’s worksite
• Meetings can occur via phone, video conference, or in-person
What is an appropriate project?

- Project has benefit to both the student and site
- Is public-health related
- Provides an experience that integrates public health skills the student developed through coursework
- Provides opportunities to demonstrate learning objectives that relate to program competencies
- Can be completed within 160 hours
Can students get paid?

- Yes, students can be paid
- Payment is not required
- Payment is negotiated between student and the on-site mentor
- University is not involved in arranging payment for time or project-related expenses
What determines a pass vs. no pass grade?

- Accomplishment of the learning objectives
- On-site mentor’s evaluation of the student’s work
- Quality of the written practicum report
- Quality of the oral presentation
How to resolve issues that arise?

• On-site mentor:
  • Work with the student to address issues
  • Consult the agreed upon tasks outlined in the Practicum Proposal Form
  • Contact the Academic Mentor to discuss the situation

• Student
  • Work with the mentor to address issues
  • Consult the agreed upon tasks outlined in the Practicum Proposal Form
  • Meet with the Academic Mentor immediately if resolution is not achieved
For more information, contact:

Patrick Dye (Program Coordinator) or Tony Ward (Dept. Chair)

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Thank you for being an MPH on-site mentor.

MPH students and our profession benefit from your dedication, commitment, and expertise.