PH8090 Practicum Experience

Course Instructions

Credits: 3 credit hours

Course Objective: The goal of the public health Practicum is to demonstrate attainment of MPH competencies (both core and concentration) through applied practice experiences in public health. Specifically, students must demonstrate that their Practicum experience addresses at least 5 competencies from the MPH Program, of which 3 must be core competencies. The additional 2 (or more) demonstrated competencies may be from the MPH core or concentration coursework.

Final Product: Students are required to complete 120 hours of public health practice through the Practicum course. As a the work products of the Practicum Experience, students are required to complete Practicum Forms A-E, a Practicum Experience summary, a final presentation.

Course Registration: Students are eligible to register for the Practicum course only after completing the MPH core courses.

The applied Practicum public health practice experience should align with the mission of the MPH Program. Students' should design their Practicum to fit their career goals. The Practicum experience must be structured to ensure that students address at least 5 MPH competencies. The applied practice experience may also address additional MPH core or concentration-specific competencies as appropriate.

Key steps to complete your Practicum:

1. Practicum Site – Identify and visit the potential Practicum site to discuss conducting your Practicum on site and determine an employee to be your Practicum preceptor;

2. Practicum Meeting – Meet with Dr. Murrison or Dr. Ying to discuss your Practicum plans, including your Practicum site, preceptor and project details;

3. Practicum Registration – Email Dr. Ying/Murrison after your meeting to summarize your Practicum plans and request access to register for the Practicum course;

4. Practicum Plans and Forms – Discuss your project plans, Practicum instructions and forms, MPH core competencies, and future career objectives with your preceptor to develop plans for your Practicum, and complete Forms Attachments A-C on Blackboard;

5. Practicum Report – Submit a summary of your Practicum that outlines the attainment of at least 5 MPH competencies at the end of the semester to Blackboard;

6. Practicum Presentation – Present on your Practicum experience at the end of the semester and submit your PPT slides to Blackboard;

7. Practicum Forms – Submit Form D (completed by your preceptor) and complete Form E (completed by student) to Blackboard at the end of the semester.
**Practicum Site and Preceptor:**

Students will choose a Practicum site for their public health practice experience. Students will practice under the supervision of a preceptor. Student preceptors are expected to:

1. Discuss, outline and align the student’s public health practice activities and duties in order to fulfill the goal of the Practicum;
2. Supervise the student’s practice to ensure completion of tasks/responsibilities and a minimum of 120 hours of practice;
3. Evaluate the student’s performance to aid in determining major component of the student’s final grade;
4. Provide feedback and suggestions to help improve the student’s practice and the Practicum course in the future.

The preceptor will communicate with the MPH Program routinely to ensure the student’s practice meets the goals of both the MPH Program and the Practicum site.

**Timeline:**

Key dates for the required documents and assignments will be posted on Blackboard. These include submission of:

- Forms A-C
- Submission of Practicum Report
- Submission Powerpoint slides
- Forms D-E

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS and ASSIGNMENTS**

**Practicum Forms A-E:**

- **Form A - Practicum Application Form**
- **Form B - Field Placement Practicum Questionnaire**
- **Form C - Intended Field Practicum Activities Agreement**

  Forms A, B, and C must be completed and submitted on Blackboard. Paper and PDF forms will not be accepted. Forms A-C must be submitted to Blackboard at the beginning of the semester.

- **Form D - Site Supervisor Final Student Evaluation**

  Form D must be completed by the Practicum Preceptor and submitted as a PDF file BY THE STUDENT on Blackboard. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure the return and submission of Form D - Site Supervisor Final Student Evaluation – via Blackboard. FAILURE TO SUBMIT THIS FORM WILL RESULT IN AN INCOMPLETE FINAL GRADE. Paper forms will not be accepted. Forms must be submitted to Blackboard at the end of the semester.

- **Form E - Student Evaluation of Agency Form**

  Form E must be completed and submitted on Blackboard. Paper and PDF forms will not be accepted. Forms D and E must be submitted to Blackboard at the end of the semester.
Practicum Report:
Students will be required to write a report that summarizes their Practicum Experience. This summary will focus on:

(1) A description of the Practicum project;
(2) A description of the Practicum organization and site supervisor/Practicum preceptor;
(3) A description of the student's activities;
(4) An explanation of how these project activities address the attainment at least 5 MPH competencies, of which 3 must be core competencies. The additional 2 (or more) demonstrated competencies may be from the MPH core or concentration coursework.

The Practicum Report must be a minimum of 2 pages and a maximum of 5 pages with 11 or 12-point Arial (or similar) font, maximum of double-spaced (or less), and 1” margins.

The Practicum Report must be submitted to Blackboard at the end of the semester. A Practicum Report template is provided on Blackboard.

Powerpoint Presentation:
Students will be required to summarize their Practicum experience in a powerpoint presentation at the end of the semester. The powerpoint slides must be submitted to Blackboard before or after the presentation.

Students should send their slides to their preceptor at least one week before the presentation to review and approve. Students should invite their preceptor to attend the presentation seminar, and inform them of the date, time, and location of the seminar.

The presentation slides should contain the following key information:
- Name of the Practicum site, starting and ending dates of the Practicum, and frequency (# of days per week, hours per day) of practice
- Projects/studies/activities that the student was involved in through the Practicum
- Student’s role and contributions in Practicum projects/studies/activities
- Justification of how projects/studies/activities helped practice at least 5 of the MPH competencies
- 1 acknowledgement slide is required to thank the preceptor and other colleagues at the Practicum site

Grade:
A letter grade (A-F) will be provided for the Practicum course. Your grade will be determined by:
(1) Recommendation of the preceptor through their evaluation Form D;
(2) Submission of all Practicum forms,
(3) Submission of Practicum Report,
(4) Presentation and submission of presentation slides.

***It is the responsibility of the student to ensure return and submission of Form D - Site Supervisor Final Student Evaluation – via Blackboard. Students are held to the UC Code of Student Conduct in submitting Form D without alteration of the preceptor’s final evaluation. Form D must reflect a positive review on the student’s performance while working at the Practicum site in order for the student to receive a passing grade.