 **MPH APPLIED PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

**PRACTICUM FACT SHEET**

**HEALTH POLICY & MANAGEMENT**

*August 2024 Version*

MPH students are required to complete a 200-hour practicum that allows for the application of classroom content to activities in a practice-based setting. Activities should be mutually beneficial to the host organization and the student.

Before arranging a practicum, students must meet with their program director to verify that the practicum opportunity will meet school and department practicum requirements. Students must submit a practicum learning agreement approved by their program director and host organization preceptor prior to the start of their practicum.

**Host Organization:** Practicum experiences may involve:

* governmental
* non-governmental
* non-profit
* industrial
* for-profit settings
* appropriate university-affiliated settings that must be primarily focused on community engagement, typically with external partners. University health promotion or wellness centers may also be appropriate.

**Program Director:**

* Supervises practicum activities through regular meetings with the student and, as necessary, the preceptor
* Assists the student as they complete the practicum learning agreement
* Completes final practicum evaluation attesting to the attainment of competencies in work performed and required work products and submits practicum grade

**Preceptor:**

* Orients student to the host organization
* Assists the student as they complete the practicum learning agreement
* Oversees the work of the student during the practicum
* Meets regularly with the student and, as necessary, the program director
* Completes midpoint (if required by department) and final preceptor evaluation form

**Student:**

* Works with their preceptor throughout the practicum to complete specific activities and products for the host organization as identified in the practicum learning agreement
* Keeps program director informed of changes, obstacles, and successes
* Completes midpoint (if required by department) and final student evaluation form
* Describes how competencies were attained through practicum activities and two non-scholarly work products that are beneficial to the host organization

**Competencies:** Practicum experiences allow each student to demonstrate attainment of at least five competencies, of which at least three must be CEPH MPH foundational competencies. The remaining competencies must be program-specific competencies and/or additional CEPH MPH foundational competencies. Practicum experiences must be structured to ensure that all students complete experiences addressing at least five competencies, as specified above.

**Work Products:** The program assesses each student’s competency attainment through a portfolio approach, which reviews practical, applied work products that were produced for the site’s use and benefit. Review of the student’s performance in the practicum must be based on at least two practical, non-academic work products AND on validating that the work products demonstrate the student’s attainment of the designated competencies.

**Examples of Suitable Work Products:**

* Project plans
* Grant proposals
* Training manuals
* Lesson plans
* Surveys
* Memos
* Videos
* Podcasts
* Presentations (non-academic, non-peer audience)
* Spreadsheets
* Websites
* Photos with explanatory text
* Other digital artifacts of learning

**Unacceptable Work Products:**

* Reflection papers
* Contact hour logs
* Scholarly papers
* Poster presentations
* Other documents/presentations required for academic purposes

**CEPH MPH Foundational Competencies**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| MPH 1 | Apply epidemiological methods to settings and situations in public health practice |
| MPH 2 | Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context |
| MPH 3 | Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming, and software, as appropriate |
| MPH 4 | Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice |
| MPH 5 | Compare the organization, structure, and function of health care, public health, and regulatory systems across national and international settings |
| MPH 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 systemic levels |
| MPH 7 | Assess population needs, assets, and capacities that affect communities’ health |
| MPH 8 | Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design, implementation, or critique of public health policies or programs |
| MPH 9 | Design a population-based policy, program, project, or intervention |
| MPH 10 | Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management |
| MPH 11 | Select methods to evaluate public health programs |
| MPH 12 | Discuss the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence |
| MPH 13 | Propose strategies to identify relevant communities and individuals and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes |
| MPH 14 | Advocate for political, social, or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations |
| MPH 15 | Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity |
| MPH 16 | Apply leadership and/or management principles to address a relevant issue |
| MPH 17 | Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges |
| MPH 18 | Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors |
| MPH 19 | Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation to a non-academic, non-peer audience with attention to factors such as literacy and health literacy |
| MPH 20 | Describe the importance of cultural humility in communicating public health content |
| MPH 21 | Integrate perspectives from other sectors and/or professions to promote and advance population health |
| MPH 22 | Apply a systems thinking tool to visually represent a public health issue in a format other than standard narrative |

**HPM MPH Competencies**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| HPM 1 | Evaluate facilitators and barriers that impact the financing and delivery of public health services or health care services |
| HPM 2 | Apply legal and ethical principles to health services practice |
| HPM 3 | Evaluate legal and policy strategies to promote the health status of populations |
| HPM 4 | Apply and interpret principles of program management, budgeting, and finance in the context of health care organizations, government, or community-based organizations |
| HPM 5 | Define and explain the principles of strategic planning to health delivery initiatives |
| HPM 6 | Measure and evaluate the impact of health policies on population health |

 **APPLIED PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

**PRACTICUM LEARNING AGREEMENT**

**HEALTH POLICY & MANAGEMENT**

*August 2024 Version*

**Student Name:** Click or tap here to enter your name.

**Program:** Choose your program.

**Pitt Email:** Click or tap here to enter your Pitt email address.

**Program Director Name:** Click or tap here to enter program director name.

**Program Director Email:** Click or tap here to enter program director email.

**Practicum Host Organization:** Click or tap here to enter host organization name.

**Host Organization Street Address:** Click or tap here to enter host org street address.

**Host Organization State or Territory:** Choose host org state or US territory.

**Host Organization Country:** Choose country OR enter country name.

**Preceptor Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Preceptor Title:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Preceptor Email:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Approximate Start Date:** Click or tap to enter a date.

**Approximate End Date:** Click or tap to enter a date.

**Practicum exceeds one term:**  Choose yes or no.

**Practicum satisfies certificate requirement:** Choose yes or no.

*If so, please see certificate advisor for Addendum*

**Practicum involves proprietary/confidential information:** Choose yes or no.

*If so, please consult with your program director regarding deliverables*

**Competencies**: Identify five competencies that will be attained through practicum activities. At least three competencies must be selected from the CEPH MPH Foundational Competencies.

1. Choose a CEPH Foundational Competency.
2. Choose a CEPH Foundational Competency.
3. Choose a CEPH Foundational Competency.
4. Choose an HPM MPH Competency or CEPH Foundational Competency.
5. Choose an HPM MPH Competency or CEPH Foundational Competency.

**Summary of Proposed Practicum Activities:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Contribution**: Briefly describe how the practicum activities tie into a project or contribute to services that will benefit the host organization.

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Public Health Relevance**: Briefly state how the project impacts populations.

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Work Products**: Identify two practical, applied, non-academic work products that will be produced for the host organization’s use and benefit.

*Examples of suitable work products include project plans, grant proposals, training manuals or lesson plans, surveys, memos, videos, podcasts, presentations (non-academic, non-peer audience), spreadsheets, websites, photos (with accompanying explanatory text), or other digital artifacts of learning. Acceptable products can also include intermediate or less formal products produced for the benefit of the site such as a memo to a supervisor recommending a course of action or a proposed project budget.* ***Reflection papers, contact hour logs, scholarly papers prepared to allow faculty to assess the experience, poster presentations, and other documents required for academic purposes may not be counted toward the minimum of two work products.***

1. Click or tap here to enter description of work product and how it will benefit the host organization.
2. Click or tap here to enter description of work product and how it will benefit the host organization.

**Approvals:** Please send for signature via DocuSign at [my.pitt.edu](https://my.pitt.edu/task/all/docusign-service).

Student Signature: Date:

Preceptor Signature: Date:

Program Director Signature: Date:

**Final signed form must be submitted to your department no later than 2 weeks after the start of your practicum experience.**