UTHealth Houston | School of Public Health

Practicum Quick-reference Guide for Students, Faculty Mentors, and Preceptors

Student Responsibilities

- Find and select a practicum site
- Pick 5 competencies (3 foundational, 2 major specific)
- Develop learning contract for faculty and OPPHE approval
- Register for practicum with faculty
- Complete 180 hours of practicum experience (3 academic credits total)
- Develop final products (MPH- 2 products, DrPH – 1 High Quality product, written reflection)
- Submit final products to mySPH

Preceptor Responsibilities

- Provide guidance to students as they develop their project and final products
- Assist with any required onboarding and training
- Supervise, oversee, and provide feedback to students
- Complete an evaluation at the end of the experience
- Contact the faculty mentor or the Office of Public Health practice and Engagement with any questions or concerns

Faculty Responsibilities

- Help connect students to practicum opportunities if needed
- Approve practicum experience through the learning contract process
- Oversee experience & product development
- Provide additional guidance for students completing international practicum or those in certificate programs
- Grade practicum/final products to ensure students meet competencies via mySPH
- Issue grade via myUTH

Practicum Resources

Handshake©
Search & Apply for Practicum Opportunities
Contact Potential Preceptors
Preceptors Can List Opportunities

Handshake

mySPH
Learning Contract
MPH & DrPH Practicum Guides
Required Competencies
Example Products

my SPH

Office of Public Health Practice and Engagement
Practicum@uth.tmc.edu

Practicum Recommended Prerequisites and Deliverable Requirements by Program

Master of Public Health (MPH) Program

Recommended Prerequisite: Completion of MPH Core Courses

Deliverable Requirements: Completion and submission of two (2) high-quality deliverables

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) Guidance:

- Examples of suitable work products include project plans, grant proposals, training manuals or lesson plans, surveys, memos, videos, podcasts, presentations, spreadsheets, websites, photos (with accompanying explanatory text), or other digital artifacts of learning.
- 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.

Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Program

Recommended Prerequisite: Completion of courses required before the preliminary examination

Deliverable Requirements: Completion and submission of one (1) high-quality deliverable and one (1) written reflection

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) Guidance:

- Students are responsible for completion of at least one project that is meaningful for an organization and to advanced public health practice. The work product may be a single project or a set of related projects that demonstrate a depth of competence.
- The deliverable must contain a reflective component that includes the student's expression of personal and/or professional reactions to the applied practice experience. This may take the form of a journal or other written product, a professional portfolio, or another deliverable as appropriate for the program.

Example MPH Program Practicum Deliverables

1. Assessments (e.g., community needs, stakeholder/capacity, program evaluation, etc.)
2. Strategic Communication Plans
3. Data Extraction, Collection, and Analysis Report
4. Grant Proposals
5. Journal Article
6. Lesson Plans
7. Analytical Memo, Issue Brief, Position Paper
8. New or Updated Protocols
9. Photos with Accompanying Explanatory Text (e.g., photovoice with a report)
10. Podcasts with Accompanying Explanatory Text
11. Non-academic Presentations (e.g., community meetings, training sessions, workshops, etc.)
12. Comprehensive Project Plan
13. Resource, Tool, or other Work Product for the Host Organization's Use (e.g., dashboard, data repository, manual of procedures, etc.)
14. Spreadsheets with Accompanying Explanatory Text
15. Surveys or Survey Questions, Focus Groups, Interviews, Town Halls, Listening Sessions, etc.
16. Training manuals
17. Videos with Accompanying Explanatory Text
18. Websites with Accompanying Explanatory Text

Example DrPH Program Practicum Deliverables

1. Grant application and or proposal for a major foundation or governmental agency
2. Evaluation plan for intervention within an external facing setting
3. Evaluate an existing intervention and/or program
4. Conduct training demonstrating the student's ability to assess a population's knowledge and needs. This includes the completion of a training manual and an evaluation report of the completed training
5. A health surveillance plan to monitor population health, health equity, and public health services
6. An epidemiologic analysis that identifies factors that affect population health and can be applied for the development or evaluation of disease control and prevention strategies
7. Conduct a qualitative analysis of a community-based participatory research project that leads to action-orientated results for community benefit and/or impact
8. Conduct a comprehensive assessment that includes identifying needs, resources, and policies impacting population health
9. Intervention plan that includes (logic model, theoretical framework, content, scope, sequence, and implementation plan)
10. A strategic plan incorporating guiding decisions and actions for an organization, collaborative, agency, and/or effort that considers the current organizational climate, public health goals and objectives, new initiatives, and recommendations
11. A policy analysis to evaluate the impact of health programs, policies, and systems
12. A strategic communication plan that 1) identifies a community program, segmented audiences, and effective ways to reach audiences; 2) includes concepts, messages, and materials representatives of the target audiences; and 3) includes strategies for testing and evaluating messaging and channels