



**Robert Stempel College
of Public Health
& Social Work**

A large, stylized 'L' shape composed of a vertical bar and a horizontal bar, both with a yellow-to-cyan gradient, is positioned to the left of the main title.

PHC 6945

Practicum in Public Health

A smaller version of the stylized 'L' shape graphic is positioned to the right of the main title.

**Presentation
Created by Ms. Okeke
Updated by Dr. Peterson 9/22/22**



WHAT IS PRACTICUM?

Applied Practice Experience

- A **temporary** position with an emphasis on education and the **application/practice** of public health for a minimum of 200 hours that bridges the gap between theory and practice.
- Mutually beneficial, planned, and supervised field experience.

THE PRACTICUM IS A PROCESS



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- An MPH is a practice-based degree
- Classroom training provides knowledge and skill sets
- Practicum is the application of the knowledge and skill sets
- Prepares you for practice post graduation (ensures you are practice ready)
- Adds to your resume



Exemptions

- Requires at least **three (3)** years of full-time public health experience
- Exempted students still are to submit a portfolio but answers questions related to the previous work experience
- Another class is substituted in place of practicum course
- Exemption paper and approval must happen at least **TWO (2)** semesters prior to the semester you are supposed to take the practicum course
- Exemption paper = Practicum portfolio = same expectations

Sites

- Organizations that contribute to public health
- Needs to provide:
 - Opportunities for you to develop further
 - Opportunities for you to apply competencies learned in the MPH program
 - An on-site supervisor (Preceptor) who can regularly meet with you to discuss their progress



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Examples

- Federal agencies:
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
 - Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
 - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
 - Veterans Administration (VA)
- State, county, or city health departments
- Ministries and departments of health in low- and middle-income countries
- Health and social service agencies
- Managed care organizations
- Insurance companies
- Neighborhood health centers and community clinics
- Hospitals (public, not-for-profit, for-profit, psychiatric, rehabilitation)
- Global health organizations and clinics
- Community mental health centers
- Environmental health consulting companies
- Industrial settings
- Multi-specialty medical practices



Sites (Current Place of Employment)

Guidance:

- Create/design a significant project that meets your future interests
- Allow this to support internal promotion OR future career path





Sites (Hospitals – Important to Note!)

- Tend to have additional requirements:
 - Orientation
 - Drug screening
 - Vaccinations/immunization records
- Complio – TAKES TIME & \$\$

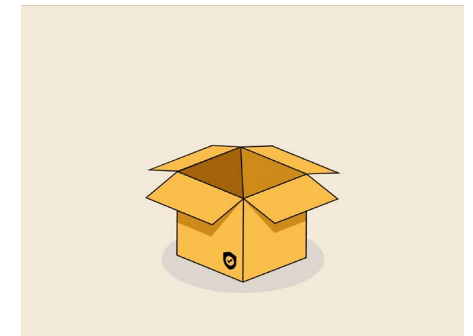
Guidance:

- Start process very early
- Contact HR & Volunteer Services depts



Best Practices for Identifying a Site

- Start with your interests and future goals
 - *What do I want to do when I graduate?*
 - *Where do I want to be?*
 - *What topics interest me?*
- Don't be shy in reaching out!
 - Agencies benefit from **your** area of expertise and training
 - Be confident in yourself
- Tailor messages sent to each organization
- Offer a proposal for their needs
- Think outside the box





Qualified Preceptors

- Provides direct supervision
- Evaluates performance on public health activities and duties
- Possess an MPH OR the equivalent combination of education and experience as determined appropriate by Instructor





Let's Discuss: Documents

- ✓ Internship offer letter OR affiliation agreement
 - ✓ Form A
 - ✓ Form B

NOTE: ALL must be on file before you can begin documenting your practicum hours



Academic Requirements

- At least 30 credits completed (accelerated students exception)
- Written/email approval from Practicum Instructor
- Registered for PHC 6945
- Documents on file:
 1. **Form A** – Education Plan (**must** be approved by Instructor)
 2. **Form B** – Preceptor Agreement
 3. **Internship offer letter OR active Affiliation Agreement**



Affiliation Agreements

- Agreement between FIU and agency
- Defines roles, responsibilities, and accountability between entities in providing practice education
- Completed by Instructor and agency
- **Must** be active and on file before arriving on site
- **Must** be done early
 - Takes at least **four** (4) weeks to complete*
- **Recommendation:**
 - Identify your site **early** since this process takes a minimum of **4 weeks**.



FORM A: Education Plan

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FORM A
Online MPH Practicum Proposal

Date:
Date Updated (if applicable):

- Blueprint for your practicum experience
- Outlines the following:
 1. What competencies you're addressing through your work
 2. How you're demonstrating each competency (activities)
 3. Two work products

Student & Practicum Project Information

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ M.I.: _____

Project Title: _____

Practicum Site/Location: _____

Preceptor's Name: _____

Preceptor's Title: _____

In the space below, please state each competency you will be addressing and briefly describe its corresponding activity. At least five (5) competencies should be addressed. Be sure to label each activity with its corresponding competency. You may attach or type out extra pages if you need additional space.

MPH Program Competencies By the completion of the Practicum, the student will be able to:	Activities to Meet the Competencies To accomplish this competency, the student will:	Work Product Only two (2) are required:
Competency #		
Competency #		
Competency #		
Competency #		
Competency #		

This form must be completed and returned to Deidre Okeke, MPH at dokeke@fiu.edu

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Competencies

Competencies define what a successful learner should know and be able to do upon completion of a particular program or course of study

- Describe in measurable terms the knowledge, skills and abilities a successful graduate will demonstrate at the conclusion of the program (CEPH Accreditation Criteria for Schools of Public Health)
- Twenty-two (22)
- Five (5) are required
- Demonstrated through your self-selected/created **activities**



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Great!

- Development of survey tools
- Analysis of data
- Creating materials for an agency that promote health in various communities
- Creating a communication plan for a local organization
- Working on a project that involves program evaluation
- Spearheading the planning and execution of a public health program, event, intervention, or project

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Ummm...



- Handing out and collecting surveys only
- Working solely with a faculty member to produce a manuscript
- Volunteering to build homes for Habitat for Humanity
- Packaging food at a food bank
- Taking a survey or giving feedback to improve organizational effectiveness
- Going door-to-door to solely give out pre-made informational brochures
- Solely performing administrative tasks

Activities & Demonstrated Competencies

- Oral health/hygiene curriculum developed for new mothers in rural South Dakota
- **Competency #8:** Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs
- **Competency #9:** Design a population-based policy, program, project, or intervention

Activities & Demonstrated Competencies

- Reviewing results from data analysis output from a survey assessing community needs within Honolulu, HI to guide the development of future initiatives
- **Competency #4:** Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice
- **Competency #7:** Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities' health



Work Products (Deliverables)

- Evidence to show how competency was accomplished
- At least two (2) work products (tangible) must be included in final portfolio
- Reflect **your** work/efforts (not agency)



Examples of Deliverables



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- Curriculum
- Dashboard User Guide
- Data Extraction, Collection & Analysis Report
- Data analysis results or output
- De-identified data set
- Evaluation or evaluation plan
- Fact sheet for a target audience
- Health Resource booklet
- Health Communications Plan
- Key informant interview
- Summary report
- Webpage designed by you
- Literature review
- Monitoring & Evaluation Tool Development
- Policy Analysis
- PowerPoint Presentation Program
- Multi-media presentation
- Project Management Plan Poster Presentation
- Quality Improvement Plan
- Training guide/manual
- Manuscript
- Research study proposal
- Risk Assessment Analysis
- Report/Spreadsheets
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Statistical Analysis Plan
- Survey or data collection tool



Final Portfolio Layout

- I. Form A: Practicum Education Plan
- II. Introduction to the Agency (size, location, mission/vision ...)
- III. Personal Practicum Goals and Objectives (**competencies**)
- IV. Work/Evidence Samples (2 work products & up-to-date resume)
- V. Form B: Preceptor Agreement
- VI. Form D: Preceptor Evaluation
- VII. Form E: Student's Self-Evaluation
- VIII. Daily journals
- IX. Other materials (trainings, certificates, etc.)



Example of Competency Description

Competency #7: Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities' health

Before devising a community-wide health fair, I needed to determine the specific needs of individuals living in my target area (Miami Gardens, Florida). My first two (2) weeks of my practicum project consisted of conducting interviews with 40 community stakeholders. The names of these stakeholders were shared with me through my Preceptor and the agency's database. These stakeholders included residents, local government representatives, and leaders of community groups. **Figure 4** displays the questions posed to stakeholders during each 15-minute interview.

Apart from conducting one-on-one interviews with stakeholders, I also revisited and revamped the agency's needs assessment survey. The last time a needs assessment was distributed amongst the community was in 2009, so it was more than appropriate to reassess the needs of the community now through another iteration of the survey. **Figure 5** displays the questionnaire that I revised and a summary of the results can be found in **Table 3**. I utilized Qualtrics to gather survey responses and to generate data exports. As shown, the community respondents and stakeholders displayed/expressed a need for no-cost secondary prevention interventions, specifically screenings for diabetes and hypertension.

Commonly Asked Questions

- Do I find a site myself?
- Does my place of residence impact my practicum experience?
- How do I reach out to sites?
- I work full-time; how can I still do my practicum hours?
- Can an internship count as my practicum project?
- Can my current place of employment and my supervisor be my site / preceptor?





Deadlines

- **To submit all documents – November 1st**
- **To have all documents approved – December 1st**



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Questions?

Thanks for joining us!



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Recommended Timeline

MPH credits completed	Action
Up to 15 credits	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Begin conversation about where you want to do practicum2. Attend info session
Up to 24 credits	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Request practicum application2. Attend information session3a. Submit letter of internship offer <p>OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3b. Request start of Affiliation Agreement
Up to 30 credits	<p>Submit all requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Form A• Form B• Letter of internship offer/Affiliation Agreement