PHC 6945
Practicum in Public Health

Presentation
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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
• 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

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
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

- 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

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<tr>
<th>Competency #</th>
<th>Activities to Meet the Competencies</th>
<th>Work Product</th>
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This form must be completed and returned to Desiree Oloke, MPH at doloke@fiu.edu
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
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

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

- 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.)
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
Questions?

Thanks for joining us!

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<tr>
<th>MPH credits completed</th>
<th>Action</th>
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| Up to 15 credits      | 1. Begin conversation about where you want to do practicum  
                        | 2. Attend info session |
| Up to 24 credits      | 1. Request practicum application  
                        | 2. Attend information session  
                        | 3a. Submit letter of internship offer  
                        | OR  
                        | 3b. Request start of Affiliation Agreement |
| Up to 30 credits      | Submit all requirements:  
                        | • Form A  
                        | • Form B  
                        | • Letter of internship offer/Affiliation Agreement |