PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING

Colorado School of Public Health
Practice-Based Learning
All MPH students are required to successfully complete a practicum experience (≥120 hours) during which the student demonstrates competencies and integrates public health knowledge.
GOALS OF PRACTICUM

• apply classroom theory, knowledge, skills
• enhance and develop new skills
• work on a defined public health problem
• engage in professional self-assessment and personal reflection
• build a personal network of professional leaders in public health
• participate in a setting that allows the student to explore future career decisions
• engage with the community
• actively participate as a member of an interprofessional team
• connect with local and state public health agencies and other community-based organizations
PREREQUISITES FOR MPH PRACTICUM COURSE

• Successfully complete the **Foundations of Public Health** course

• Successfully complete (B- or higher) **18 credits** including a minimum of three of the core courses

• Complete the **Practicum Proposal and Learning Plan**

INTERNATIONAL Experiences ONLY

• Complete EHOH 6633 Travel Course (online Spring only)
PRACTICUM SEARCH TIMING

• Domestic
  Semester prior to starting the practicum

• International
  Two semesters prior to starting the practicum

• Competitive Internships
  Follow their stated deadlines
EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS

• **SETTING**: hospital, state health department, local health agency, non-profit, school-based

• **TOPICS**: cancer prevention, nutrition, policy, autism

• **SKILLS**: evaluation, data analysis, program implementation

• **POPULATION**: K-12, Veterans, Refugee, Seniors, LGBTQ

• **GLOBAL** Opportunities
HOST SITE EXAMPLES

DENVER URBAN GARDENS

COLORADO Department of Public Health & Environment

RTD

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

DENVER PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

Boulder County

World Health Organization

LiveWell COLORADO

City of Fort Collins

Children's Hospital Colorado

Greeley-Evans WELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 6

colorado school of public health
• Students can complete the practicum and/or capstone project anywhere in the world

• Additional approval is required if traveling to another country for practicum or capstone
GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

Guatemala  Rwanda
Kenya      Switzerland
Ghana      Brazil
Korea      Peru
Canada     Tanzania
Mexico     Thailand
Germany    Nepal
Ecuador    South Africa
Uganda     England
LOCATE A PRACTICUM PROJECT

One stop shop for career resources
• resume/CV samples • interviewing • networking strategies • etc.

Positions are posted by
• Career Services • Preceptors & Employers

colorado school of public health
LOCATE A PRACTICUM PROJECT

- LinkedIn
- Advisor
- Classmate(s)
- Colleague
- Course Guest Speakers

- Community Meeting
- Networking
- Online search
- Practicum Coordinator
CONTACTING PRECEPTOR/HOST SITE

- **Handshake**
- **Send an initial email inquiry**
  - Include a brief description of your interests; what you’re looking for, attach your most recent resume
- **Call a contact or office**
  - General office line: ask to speak with someone about internship opportunities
  - Arrange a time to speak about the practicum in more detail
  - Bring a printed copy of your resume
- **Dress appropriately**
- Connect with a preceptor on LinkedIn
STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITIES

• Take ownership of your proposed activities through development, planning, implementation and completion

• Communicate your goals, timelines and any necessary details with your preceptor and practicum instructor

• Meet all deadlines and plan accordingly

• Conduct yourself in a professional manner at all times
PRECEPTOR’S RESPONSIBILITIES

• Provide mentoring and guidance throughout the project

• Work with you to provide support needed to complete the activities—access to data, introductions to other professionals, facilitate discussions, provide direction

• Provide feedback throughout practicum and at the midpoint and final evaluation
MPH PRACTICUM COURSE

• 120 hour minimum public health experience which must take place in:
  • a governmental, non-governmental, non-profit, industrial, or for-profit setting

• ≥ 6 hours interprofessional education (IPE)*

• The experience must allow the student to demonstrate attainment of five competencies, three of which must be CEPH foundational competencies

• The MPH Practicum must be mutually beneficial to both the student and the host site

*Interprofessional education (IPE) occurs when people from two or more professions learn about, from, and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes. This refers to engagement with professionals outside of public health (e.g. architects, nurses) rather than to engagement with individuals from other public health disciplines (e.g. biostatisticians, health promotion specialists)
PRACTICUM COURSE DETAILS
CU ANSCHUTZ CAMPUS
PRACTICUM COURSE
CU ANSCHUTZ

• MPH Practicum course at CU Anschutz is PUBH 6606

• To receive a code to register for the course, you must submit your completed Practicum Proposal packet to ColoradoSPH.practicum@cuanschutz.edu

• 2 credit – Pass/Fail Course

• Online Canvas Course Component with various assignments including:
  • Logbooks
  • Midpoint, final and IPE evaluations
  • Reflections
  • Final summary and product portfolio

Spring 21: January 11
Summer 21: ~ May 10
PRACTICUM PROPOSAL

Practicum Proposal Packet

• Resume

• CITI Courses: HIPAA and Human Subjects online courses

• Learning Plan to be completed with Preceptor and Faculty Advisor

• Placement Agreement to be completed with Preceptor

• COVID-19 Form

• Approval and signatures Required (Preceptor, Academic Advisor, Student)

• Final approval received upon submission of proposal packet
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity(ies)</th>
<th>Product(s)</th>
<th>Prep/Steps</th>
<th>Approval (initials/sign off)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Develop an infographic on smoking and mental health and present information at a staff meeting | Infographic using the findings from my data analyses of community health survey data and focus group data to inform the content. Creation and dissemination of information during a monthly staff meeting. The infographic will be presented along with a summary of the findings of my data analyses during an all staff meeting. | Review already developed infographics to familiarize myself with ways to organize and communicate information to the target audience. I have experience using online infographic tools such as Piktochart. Additionally, there several step-by-step videos that I can watch to familiarize myself with online tools if necessary. I will also be working with the communications and marketing team who will have expertise and strategies to best display the information for the intended audience, they may already have a template or suggested tool I can use to create the infographic. | Initial approval (prior to practicum start)  
Preceptor _____  
Advisor _____  
Midpoint progress check (at the completion of 60 practicum hours)  
Preceptor _____  
Student _____  
If this activity or product was modified at the midpoint, please describe the changes here: |

Note: If materials generated for host site were insufficient to meet portfolio requirements, the advisor may assign additional products for the student to demonstrate competency attainment.
TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PRACTICUM COURSE YOU MUST:

- Attend a Practicum Information Session and/or meet with Practicum Coordinator(s) to discuss the practicum experience and requirements (this must be done before you meet with host sites/preceptors)
- Meet with Host Site and Preceptor to determine and define practicum experience (see practicum requirements on the next page)
  - Provide a description of the interprofessional experience (IPE)* or a plan that allows the student to complete the required IPE experience during their practicum (provided in the Placement Agreement)
- Provide Preceptor a copy of your resume, the Preceptor Information Packet and completed Practicum Proposal
- Complete Learning Plan (Sections 1-5)
- Complete Placement Agreement with your Preceptor
- Obtain appropriate signatures (Faculty Advisor, Preceptor and Student)
  - Including Section 5 of the Learning Plan which requires your advisor/preceptor to sign off on the activities/products you plan to complete
- □ Provide Preceptor and Faculty Advisor a final copy of this packet including signatures
- □ Keep a copy of this packet including signatures
- Complete online HIPAA and Human Subjects Research CITI courses (see page 14), save a copy of your certificates (or a screen shot of completion page) for submission with your final proposal
- Include an updated copy of your resume with your final proposal
- Submit completed Practicum Proposal, CITI certificates and resume to: ColoradoSPH.Practicum@ucdenver.edu
- □ Receive registration code from the Practicum Coordinator and register online for PUBH 6000 MPA Practicum Course (you will receive the code via email after your proposal has been reviewed and approved)
Practicum & Capstone

COVID-19 update

- Practicum & capstone projects must be completed in the state of Colorado (no international travel). Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please contact us at ColoradoSPH.Practicum@cuanschutz.edu.
- All students must complete the COVID-19 social distancing form (preceptor signature required)
- MPH practicum proposal and learning plan
PRACTICUM VS CAPSTONE

**Practicum**
- Internship
- Broad learning opportunity
- Assist an organization with multiple activities

**Capstone**
- Final culminating project
- Focused project with defined end product/deliverable
- Independent work with support of a preceptor

*Practicum & capstone can be related, but this is not required*

*Practicum is completed first, or at the same time as capstone prep*
CONTACT THE
CU ANSCHUTZ PBL TEAM

ColoradoSPH.Practicum@cuanschutz.edu
QUESTIONS?