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.
• 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 (in addition to Foundations)

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
- Susan G. Komen
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- Denver Public Health & Environment
- Boulder County
- World Health Organization
- LiveWell Colorado
- City of Fort Collins
- Greeley-Evans
- Children's Hospital Colorado
- Colorado School of Public Health
INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

• 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
Kenya
Ghana
Korea
Canada
Mexico
Germany
Ecuador
Uganda

Rwanda
Switzerland
Brazil
Peru
Tanzania
Thailand
Nepal
South Africa
England
FINDING A PRACTICUM SITE

handshake

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

Positions are posted by
• Career Services • Preceptors & Employers
FINDING A PRACTICUM SITE

- 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
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
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

Deadlines
- Summer 2021: May 17
- Fall 2021: August 16
SAMPLE LEARNING PLAN TABLE
<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 for ColoradoSPH.Practicum@ucdenver.edu
- Receive registration code from the Practicum Coordinator and register online for PUBH 6606 MPH 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 Form Updated 11.12.20 (preceptor signature required)
- MPH practicum proposal/learning plan updated 11.12.20
PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING FUNNEL

MPH

Capstone Prep & Integration

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

ColoradoSPH.Practicum@CUAnschutz.edu

Lauren Boissy, Sr. Practicum and Career Services Professional
Email: Lauren.Boissy@CUAnschutz.edu
QUESTIONS?