PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING

Colorado School of Public Health
Practice-Based Learning
REQUIRED PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING (PBL) COURSES – MPH DEGREE

- MPH Practicum
- Capstone
  - Preparation
  - Integration
PBL FUNNEL - MPH

Practicum

Capstone Prep & Integration

MPH
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practicum</th>
<th>Capstone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Internship</td>
<td>• Final culminating project</td>
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<td>• Broad learning opportunity</td>
<td>• Focused project with defined end product/deliverable</td>
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<td>• Assist an organization with multiple activities</td>
<td>• Independent work with support of a preceptor</td>
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*Practicum & capstone can be related, but this is not required*

*Practicum should be completed first, or at the same time as capstone prep*
MPH PRACTICUM
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 professional network in public health
• participate in a setting that allows the student to explore future career decisions
• engage with the community and connect with public health agencies and other community-based organizations
• actively participate as a member of an interprofessional team
PREREQUISITES
MPH PRACTICUM COURSE

• Successfully complete the Foundations of Public Health course

• Successfully complete (B- or higher) 18 credits
  • minimum of 3 core courses (in addition to Foundations)

INTERNATIONAL Experiences ONLY

• Complete EHOH 6633 Travel Course (1 credit hour; 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**

colorado school of public health
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

WELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 6

COLORADO SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Children's Hospital Colorado
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(s)
- Course Guest Speakers
- Community Meeting
- Networking
- Online search
- Practicum Coordinator
OUTREACH TO PRECEPTOR/HOST SITE

- **Send an initial email inquiry**
  - Include a brief description of your interests, what you’re looking for, and very basic practicum requirements
- **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
- Provide a copy of your *resume*
- **Dress appropriately**
- Connect with potential preceptors on LinkedIn
• 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 5 public health competencies, 3 of which must be CEPH foundational competencies

• The MPH Practicum should 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

The practicum course is a restricted access course: to receive a code to register, 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 check-in
- IPE Agreement
- Reflections
- Final summary and product portfolio
- Final evaluations (student and preceptor)
The Practicum Proposal Packet consists of:

- Resume
- 2 CITI Course Completion Certificates:
  - HIPAA and Human Subjects
- Learning Plan
  - Placement Agreement to be completed with Preceptor
  - COVID-19 Form (Preceptor and Student)
  - Approval and signatures required (Preceptor, Academic Advisor, Student)

Final approval received upon submission of proposal packet; course registration code given once approved.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Learning Plan Table</th>
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**SAMPLE LEARNING PLAN TABLE**
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity(ies)</th>
<th>Product(s)</th>
<th>Prep/Steps</th>
<th>Approval (initials/sign off)</th>
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| 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 6606 MPH Practicum Course (you will receive the code via email after your proposal has been reviewed and approved)
MPH CAPSTONE
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• All MPH students complete a capstone project that results in a high-quality written deliverable and presentation at Public Health Forum.

• If capstone is linked to your practicum experience, an activity begun in the practicum must develop into a significant project that contributes to the goals of the agency and/or to the health of the public in general.

• It is expected that the completion of the Capstone project will require a minimum of 60 hours

• The student is expected to have an independent role in the development and completion of the capstone project, in collaboration with the preceptor and others in the agency or organization.
CAPSTONE COURSE DETAILS
CU ANSCHUTZ CAMPUS
**MPH CAPSTONE**

### Capstone Preparation
- 1-credit hour course
- Enroll in department for concentration (Prefix BIOS/CBHS/EHOH/EPID/HSMP 6990)
- Students develop their projects and methodology
- Approved capstone proposal by course end

### Capstone Integration
- 1-credit hour course
- PUBH 6991
- Classmates from multiple concentrations
- Project is completed by end
- Students develop abstract, PH Forum presentation, and final written deliverable

**Colorado School of Public Health**
INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Must complete (1 CR) online course **EHOH 6633 only offered in Spring**
  - May submit waiver
- Students can complete practicum and/or capstone anywhere in the world
- University approval is required if traveling to another country
1) **Complete EHOH 6633 International Travel and Health Course** 1 credit hour (OL, Spring only) or have the course officially waived due to prior international experience ([download waiver form here](#)).

2) **Contact the CSPH Practice-Based Learning team** ([COLORADOSPH.PRACTICUM@CUANSCHUTZ.EDU](mailto:COLORADOSPH.PRACTICUM@CUANSCHUTZ.EDU)) to inform us that you are planning an international practicum. Share site, preceptor and location info.

3) **Contact Nicole Herrin** ([NICOLE.HERRIN@UCDENVER.EDU](mailto:NICOLE.HERRIN@UCDENVER.EDU)) in the Office of Global Education (OGE); initiate and complete the required university international travel approval process.

4) **Work with the CSPH PBL team and OGE** to obtain the necessary signatures from Dean Samet and university administration.

5) **Complete and submit all required CSPH documents for practicum**, including the learning plan, CITI courses, resume, COVID-19 form, etc.

6) **Once the university has approved your travel and the PBL team has approved your practicum documents**, you will be given a permission code to register for the course (950 section).
1) Complete EHOH 6633 International Travel and Health Course 1 credit hour (OL, Spring only) or have the course officially waived due to prior international experience (download form here).
2) Contact CoSPH Practice-Based Learning team (COLORADOSPH.PRACTICUM@CUANSCHUTZ.EDU) to inform us that you are planning an international capstone experience.
3) Contact Madiha Abdel-Maksoud (MADIHA.ABDEL-MAKSOUD@CUANSCHUTZ.EDU) expressing your interest for an international capstone. Share site, preceptor, capstone proposal and location info.
4) Contact Nicole Herrin (NICOLE.HERRIN@UCDENVER.EDU) in the Office of Global Education (OGE); initiate and complete the required university international travel approval process.
5) Work with the CoSPH PBL team and OGE to obtain the necessary signatures from Dean Samet and university administration.
6) Once the university has approved your travel and Madiha has approved your capstone proposal documents, you will be given a permission code to register for the course (950 section).
RESOURCES
UCDAccess
Register for courses, pay your tuition, and access your financial aid using your UCDAccess portal.

Webmail
Log into your email account. All ColoradoSPH students have a CU Anschutz email address.

Courses & registration
Find course schedules, our coursebook, and information about how to register for courses.

Capstone & practicum
Learn how to register for capstone and practicum courses, find related forms, and more.
2022 COLORADO SPH PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING & CAREER EXPLORATION FAIR
MARCH 1-3, 2022

• 32 Public Health agencies will present over Zoom about their organization and share upcoming job or PBL opportunities
• Great way to learn more about the agency and connect to professionals!
• Register for any sessions you are interested in (Handshake and Canvas)
• Sessions will be recorded and accessible in Handshake if unable to attend the live session
CONTACT THE CU ANSCHUTZ PBL TEAM

ColoradoSPH.Practicum@CUAnschutz.edu

Lauren Boissy, MPH
Sr. Practice-Based Learning Professional
Email: Lauren.Boissy@CUAnschutz.edu

Interested in scheduling an appointment to discuss practicum?
Log-in to your CU Anschutz Handshake account!
QUESTIONS?