MPH Practicum for Preceptors

The MPH Practicum

On behalf of the Colorado School of Public Health, we would like to thank you for your interest in becoming a preceptor for the MPH practicum! The MPH practicum experience (≥ 120 hours) is intended to be a mutually beneficial experience; one that facilitates student growth and professional development while connecting and contributing to the needs of host sites and communities.

Host Site Benefits

- Host sites increase capacity to address agency or community initiatives, programs, and projects through student contribution of public health knowledge and skills, time, and energy
- Host sites benefit from students’ inquisitive approach, applied theory, and creative solutions
- Host sites may identify, recruit, and familiarize new talent to join their workforce
- Host sites and preceptors may extend their impact in communities by participating in the education of future public health professionals

Student Benefits

- Students apply classroom theory, knowledge, and skills within a professional work setting
- Students connect with local or state public health agencies and other community-based organizations to engage in salient public health challenges
- Students explore future career path opportunities and build upon their network of professionals in public health, as well as actively participate as a member of an interprofessional team
- Students engage in professional self-assessment and personal reflection
Getting Started

- Identify your organizational need - determine how a graduate student could contribute to a program, project, or other ongoing work at your agency.
- Create a position description that includes activities, responsibilities and/or expectations.
- Identify or select student candidate(s) for practicum opportunity.
- Collaborate with student to define and develop a realistic, graduate level scope of work within a mutually agreeable timeframe and sign off on student Learning Plan (including COVID form).
- The student may begin logging contact hours after required materials are submitted, approved, and the student is registered for the course.

Mentoring Throughout the Practicum

- Provide the student with background about the organization, programs, or projects
- Be available to meet regularly to provide supervision and access to resources for student to complete work
- Support students in professional development activities (may include student in staff meetings, facilitate professional introductions, or enlist student in training opportunities or events)
- Share constructive feedback at an informal mid-point meeting (after ~60 contact hours), and complete an online final evaluation of the student at the completion of 120 hours

Timing & Other Considerations

- Students are looking for opportunities on an ongoing basis and practicum timeframe may be adjusted for student and host site/preceptor schedules
- An Educational Affiliation Agreement will need to be established between the ColoradoSPH and the host agency if not previously obtained

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practicum semester course</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suggested opportunity posting timeframe</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student submission deadline</td>
<td>~ August 15</td>
<td>~ January 15</td>
<td>~ May 15</td>
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*Considering hosting a ColoradoSPH student?*

*Please reach out to the Practice-Based Learning team for more information at:*

**Practice-Based Learning | ColoradoSPH.Practicum@CUAnschutz.edu**

*Or visit our website for additional information and resources:*

https://coloradosph.cuanschutz.edu/resources/for-current-students/practicum-capstone