

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

Practicum semester course	Fall	Spring	Summer
Suggested opportunity posting timeframe	June	October	March
Student submission deadline	~ August 15	~ January 15	~ May 15

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>