PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING

Colorado School of Public Health
Office of Admissions & Student Affairs
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
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PRACTICUM

• Complete EHOH 6633 Travel Course (online Spring only)

• Office of Global Education (OGE) Requirements
  o OGE Application
    ❖ Catherine Bogle is the Global Education Associate for CU Anschutz, Catherine.bogle@ucdenver.edu

*Scholarships available through Center for Global Health

Practice-Based Learning Fair February 27 12:00 – 1:00 pm
CU Anschutz Ed 2 Community Bridge
PRACTICUM SEARCH TIMING

• **Domestic** – Semester prior starting the practicum
• **International** – Two semesters prior to starting the practicum
• **Competitive Internships** – Follow their stated deadlines

**Practicum Proposal Deadlines:**
• **Summer 2019**
  • Domestic- May 13
  • International- March 18
• **Fall 2019**
  • Domestic- August 19
  • International - July 1
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

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HOST SITE EXAMPLES
GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

Guatemala  
Kenya  
Ghana  
Korea  
Canada  
Mexico  
Germany  
Ecuador

Uganda  
Rwanda  
Switzerland  
Brazil  
Peru  
Tanzania  
Thailand  
Nepal

colorado school of public health
LOCATE A PRACTICUM PROJECT

- www.ColoradoSPHConnect.com
- One stop shop for career resources like resume/CV samples, interview strategies, LinkedIn tips, Networking strategies, etc.
- Positions are posted daily from Career Services, Preceptors, and Employers
LOCATE A PRACTICUM PROJECT

- LinkedIn
- Advisor
- Classmate(s)
- Colleague
- Course Guest Speakers
- Community Meeting
- Networking
- Online search
- Practicum Coordinators

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Tri County
- Jefferson County
- Boulder County Public Health
- Denver Public Health

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CONTACTING PRECEPTOR/HOST SITE

- **ColoradoSPHConnect** Contact information listed in postings
- **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 professionally**
- **Connect with a preceptor on LinkedIn**
WHAT’S THE SKINNY?
• 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 PROPOSAL

• Practicum Proposal Packet
• Practicum Check List
• Resume
• Learning Plan to be completed with Preceptor and Faculty Advisor
• Placement Agreement to be completed with Preceptor
• CITI Courses: HIPAA and Human Subjects online course instructions
• Approval and signatures Required (Preceptor, Academic Advisor, Student)
  • Final approval received upon submission of proposal packet
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.
PRACTICUM COURSE

- 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 to ColoradoSPH.practicum@ucdenver.edu
- Complete the practicum course and 120 hour experience in one semester
- 2 credit – Pass/Fail Course
- Online Component: There is an online Canvas course. Assignments include:
  - log books
  - midpoint, final and IPE evaluations
  - reflections
  - ≥ 2 portfolio products addressing the selected competencies
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
CONTACT THE PBL TEAM LEADERS

Practicum Instructor
Mary Dinger, PhD, CHES, FACSM

Practicum Coordinator
Heidi O’Mara, MPH

Office Of Admissions & Student Affairs
Fitzsimons Building 3rd floor E3360
ColoradoSPH.Practicum@ucdenver.edu
QUESTIONS?
**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 at the same site, but this is not required
*Practicum is completed first, or at the same time as capstone prep
• Public Health Forum
  • May 3 (CSU)
  • May 10 (CU & UNC)