MPH Practicum Preceptor Tips
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

MPH Practicum Project Criteria
- Is a minimum of 100 hours (6-8 hours per week for 4 months is about 100 hours)
- Is population-health focused, public health practice activities
- Is supervised and evaluated by a qualified preceptor
- Applies at least one of the public health competencies are applied (Analytical/Assessment Skills; Policy Development/Program Planning Skills; Communication Skills; Cultural Competency Skills; Community Dimensions of Practice Skills; Public Health Sciences Skills; Financial Planning and Management Skills; Leadership and Systems Thinking Skills.)

MPH Students At a Glance
- At least two years of full-time post-baccalaureate, health-related work experience or doctoral degree in field underlying public health
- 50 percent in medical profession, 50 percent in diversity of fields (e.g. policy, engineering, research assistants, lawyers, peace corps, etc.)
- Core coursework in the areas of biostatistics, epidemiology, social and behavioral determinants of health, management sciences, practice/problem-solving, environmental health, and biological sciences.

MPH Program Offers the Following Concentrations
- Child and Adolescent Health
- Epidemiologic & Biostatistical Methods for Public Health & Clinical Research
- Food, Nutrition, and Health
- Global Environmental Sustainability & Health
- Health in Crisis and Humanitarian Assistance
- Health Leadership and Management
- Health Systems and Policy
- Infectious Diseases
- Social & Behavioral Sciences in Public Health
- Women's and Reproductive Health

Preceptor Responsibilities (brief overview)
- Work with the student to complete a Practicum Learning Plan: http://tinyurl.com/mph-practicum-learning-plan
- Supervise and guide the student through the project
- Evaluate the student:
  - Progress Report at mid-point: http://tinyurl.com/progress-preceptor-complete
  - Final Report at completion: http://tinyurl.com/final-preceptor-complete
- Communicate with JHSPH in regards to any issues/concerns (practice@jhu.edu)

Considerations when Developing Practicum Project
- If outside the Baltimore City area, consider allowing some of the work to be completed remotely
• Most students will search for practicum projects around August – October, but students will seek projects all year round. Note that students have to complete a Capstone requirement (i.e. final paper) by mid-May and tend to be seeking post-graduation employment, so late Spring (March – May) is not a recommended time for practicum projects.
• Students have a winter break from December 21, 2015 – January 18, 2016 where they are not in classes and may be able to devote more time to practicum activities.
• In the student selection process, request a resume and a cover letter to assess the student’s interest and qualifications for the project, as well as their writing skills. We also recommend interviewing the student either in-person or by phone call, or Skype.

Examples of Practicum Project Activities
• Analyze barriers to implementation and present recommendations
• Conduct cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit, and cost utility analyses
• Conduct needs assessments
• Contribute to the measuring, reporting and continuous improvement of organizational performance
• Design health programs/curricula
• Assess the feasibility and expected outcomes of policy options
• Develop and implement quality improvement projects
• Gather information relevant to specific public health policy issues, develop policy recommendations
• Investigate new partnerships and client resources
• Organize, analyze, and summarize study data

2015-2016 Academic School Year
• MPH students start summer term: July 1
• Summer Term: July 1 – August 21
• First Term: August 31 – October 23
• Second Term: October 26 – December 18
• Winter Break: December 21 – January 18
• Third Term: January 19 – March 11
• Spring Break: March 14 – March 18
• Fourth Term: March 21 – May 13

Project Description Approval Timeline (approximately 3-5 weeks)
• Step 1: Submit project description for review
• Step 2 (1-2 weeks): Initial review by Practicum Coordinator
• Step 3 (1-2 weeks): Practicum Coordinator and Preceptor are in communication to resolve any questions or concerns about the project
• Step 4 (1 week): Once project is approved, the project description is posted for student viewing

How to Submit a Practicum Opportunity Description
• Link to online Practicum Opportunity Site: https://apps4.jhsph.edu/pos/

Contact Information:
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