Baltimore Community Practicum Course

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Purpose of Baltimore Community Practicum Course

To provide a planned, supervised, and evaluated experience for students to gain experience in population health with a community-based organization (CBO) or local health department (LHD).
What is the Baltimore Community Practicum Course?

- A **credit-earning course** that provides field experience and learning in the real public health world.

- A **practicum** where students apply classroom knowledge to a CBO’s or LHD’s public health issues.

**Partnership**
- SOURCE (Student Outreach Resource Center)
- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO)
- Various CBOs and LHDs
Course Requirements

- A public health practice experience
  - Minimum of 60 hours effort
  - Over 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} academic terms
- Attendance
  - Weekly seminars in the course
    (Tuesdays, 3:30 pm – 4:20 pm)
  - At least ½ day per week on site
    (4, 8, 12 hrs/week)
- Register for 550.864.01 after accepted
  - 2 credits per term, pass/fail
- Actively engage in a practice-based project
- Submit educational plan / concept paper
- 15-20 minute oral presentation & paper
What is Covered in the Seminar?

- Basic concepts of service-learning, and civic professionalism
- Practical methods for promoting partnerships between communities, public health agencies, academic institutions, CBOs and LHDs
- Effective communication and presentation skills
- Information about Baltimore’s history, health issues, leadership, and more!
Several Participating CBOs

- Baltimore HealthCare Access
- Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning
- The Family Tree
- HERO (Health Education Resource Organization)
- Hispanic Apostolate
- House of Ruth
- International Rescue Committee
- Moveable Feast
- Planned Parenthood of MD
- And selected Local Health Departments
Past Projects

• Advocating for Affordable Health Care for all Marylanders
• Facilitating a Quality Improvement Process for a Domestic Violence Shelter
• Implementing a Nutrition Education Program for the MD Food Bank
• Assessment of Refugees’ Access to Care
• Implementing an Emergency Contraception Study
• Evaluation of Local Substance Abuse Clinics
• Designing a Lead Poisoning Prevention Mobile Outreach Unit
• Maryland Medicaid Providers Survey
• South Baltimore Domestic Violence Needs Assessment
Performance Evaluation

- Community preceptor’s evaluation
- Participation in the weekly seminar
- Written educational plan
- Journals
- Oral presentation of project
- Final paper based on the presentation
Application Process

- Begins early September (*Sept 8th*)
- View all possible projects online
- Prioritize projects by your interest
- Submit application (*Sept 19th deadline*)
- Interviews (*week of Sept 29 – Oct 3*)
- Matching occurs in early October
- Register for 2nd term when accepted
SOURCE and the MPH Program

- **MPH Capstone Project:** Collaborate with a community-based organization (CBO) on your project.

- **Customized Internships with “Special Studies” Courses**
  - Agreement with CBO
  - Agreement with Faculty
  - Variable Credits
  - How to “Show” Learning
Get involved with the Local Community!

Questions?