MPH Practicum FAQ for Faculty and Academic Advisors

Do you or your students have questions about the practicum? Get answers at Practice Office Hours (Tuesdays, 12-1:15pm, Daily Grind)! Or Contact Paulani Mui, MPH Practicum Coordinator at pmui1@jhu.edu or 410.502.8952.

What is the MPH Practicum?
All MPH students are required to complete a practicum. This is an opportunity for students to apply classroom knowledge to real-world public health practice. The intent is to engage students in activities that (1) align with their career goals and (2) demonstrate application of public health concepts relevant to their area of interest.

What are the practicum requirements?
1. An application of public health skills and competencies.
2. A population-level focused project conducted in a public health practice context.
3. Supervised by a qualified preceptor.
4. An evaluated experience (both student and preceptor will complete mid-point progress and final reports)
5. A significant experience (a minimum of 100 practicum hours.) Students can meet this via a single experience or a combination of experiences. All MPH students earn 10 hours from successful completion (C or higher) of the required Tools for Public Health Practice course offered in the summer and 3rd terms and at the Barcelona Fall Institute.

FAQs
What constitutes a “project conducted in a public health practice context”?
The practice component of the practicum assures consideration of the application and impact of the practicum in a real-world context. Thus a research-only project (e.g., a data analysis or literature review) without consideration of the application or impact of the work, such as engaging stakeholders and/or the targeted population in the study design, interpretation, or dissemination of the findings, will not meet the practicum requirement. The practice component of the practicum will vary depending on the project scope and aims; please consult with Paulani Mui if you need assistance.

What are the preceptor requirements? Can Hopkins faculty serve as preceptors?
A qualified preceptor is a professional working in a public health organization, who is willing to commit time to supervising a student and providing feedback on their work. Preceptors can be Hopkins faculty or from an outside organization, and must be able to guide the student throughout the process.

How can students complete their practicum?
Students can complete their 100 required practicum hours via one or more of the following:
   (1) Customized Practicum:
      (A) Project with an outside agency/org.  OR  (B) Special Studies project with a JHSPH faculty member
   (2) JHSPH Course(s) with a built-in practicum component

How do students register for practicum credits?
Students are not eligible to register for practicum credits until their practicum learning plan has been approved by the MPH Practicum Team. Once approved, students will receive registration instructions from the Practicum Coordinator. The number of practicum credits will vary depending on the scope of the project.

How can you assist your student(s) with the practicum process?
Help students identify what public health skills and competencies they’d like to focus on during their practicum experience. Connect students to those working in their interest areas and potential project opportunities with you, fellow faculty members, or at other organizations.

More information on the practicum process, opportunities, examples, etc. is available at:
   ➢ https://www.jhsph.edu/mph-practicum

If you want to host a practicum opportunity or a practicum course, more information is available at:

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