

## **Master of Public Health Practice Experience**

A practice experience is structured, practice-based learning under the guidance of a preceptor. Every Master of Public Health (MPH) student is required to complete a practice experience to demonstrate competency in public health knowledge, principles and skills acquired through previous public health coursework in actual efforts to improve health, and reduce morbidity and mortality of a population. The student spends 200 hours during one semester at placement site. He/she may work on a small project or part of a larger project, as long as it benefits both the student and the organization.

Students are studying in one of five program areas: biostatistics, behavioral and community health sciences, environmental and occupational health sciences, epidemiology, and health policy and systems management.

### **Practice Placement Sites**

The placement site--an organization, center or program--must be devoted to the health of populations through the prevention of disease, promotion of health, and/or advocacy for healthcare programs and delivery of services. Providing paid compensation for students is optional.

### **Role of the Preceptor**

The preceptor mentors and directs the student during the practice experience. The preceptor and student work closely on developing the proposal, and the preceptor is asked to provide feedback on the student's skills, ability and performance at mid-semester and the end of the experience. Preceptors have a background in public health: an MPH (or an equivalent degree) plus three years professional public health experience, or five years of professional public health experience.

### **Information**

For more information on becoming a practice site or preceptor, please contact Randi Kaufman, DrPH, Director of Public Health Practice & Community Engagement, at [rkauf1@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:rkauf1@lsuhsc.edu) or 504-568-5888.