

# MPH Practice Experience: An Overview

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Course Director – PUBH 6800 Practice Experience

# Agenda

- \* Defining the Practice Experience
- \* Planning
- \* Policies and Procedures

# What is the Practice Experience (PE)?

- \* Experiential, practice-based learning
- \* Defined and Structured
  - \* Planned
  - \* Supervised/Mentored
  - \* Evaluated
- \* Competency-based
- \* CEPH requirement

# What It Isn't

- \* Clerical
- \* Shadowing
- \* Clinical

# Why PE?

- \* Bridge academic training and applied public health practice.
- \* Build skills, abilities and relationships.
- \* Inform future choices.
- \* Create mutual benefit.

# Requirements

- \* Minimum of 200 hours
  - \* Complete in one semester\*
  - \* PUBH 6800 - 3 credits
- \* Small project or part a larger project .
  - \* One or more aspects of public health operation.
  - \* Benefits both the student and the organization.

\*Exceptions: work full-time, joint degree or formal internship.

# Prerequisites

- \* At least 10 hours, including:
  - \* BIOS core
  - \* EPID core
  - \* Program core
- \* School
  - \* Code of conduct
  - \* CITI
  - \* HIPAA training

# Setting Up Your Practice Experience



Please read the Practice  
Experience Handbook.

# Setting Up Your Practice Experience

Guidance from Advisor and PE Director

Discuss plans with advisor.

ID site & preceptor\*

Work w/ preceptor to develop PE proposal.

Submit proposal draft to PE Dir. for review.

Submit completed proposal form & MOU to PE Dir.

Get code to register for PUBH 6800.

\*If new site and/or preceptor, student submits site and/or preceptor form with CV.

# Placement Sites

- \* Organization, center or program – generally outside of LSUHSC.
- \* Devoted to the health of populations.
  - \* Prevention of disease
  - \* Promotion of health
  - \* Advocacy for healthcare programs /delivery of services.
- \* Additional procedures/requirements for international.  
*Start international PE planning early.*

# How to Choose a Site

- \* Look for one that interests you and is in line with career goals.
- \* Talk with advisor and PE director.
- \* Sites can be already approved or new.
- \* Simple process for adding new sites.

# How to Find a Site

- \* Networking
- \* Advisor
- \* Classmates
- \* Reading
- \* Emails
- \* Approved sites list
  - \* Emailed out regularly to all MPH students.
  - \* Available from course director

# Site Examples

- \* Governmental
  - \* LA DHH/Office of Public Health
  - \* New Orleans Health Department
  - \* LA Department of Environmental Quality
- \* Non-Profit
  - \* St. Bernard Community Health Center
  - \* Louisiana Public Health Institute
  - \* Grow Dat Youth Farm
- \* Private companies (environmental)

# New PE Sites

- \* If site not on approved list, it must be approved *before* student can move forward with PE planning.
- \* PDF approval form on [PE webpage](#).
- \* Word form available from course director.

# Preceptor

- \* Mentors/directs /coaches the student.
- \* Experienced, practicing public health professional
  - \* MPH (or equivalent degree) plus 3 years professional public health experience; or
  - \* Bachelor's in related field plus 5 years of professional public health experience.
- \* If preceptor has never served in this role before, he/she must approved by PE Director (submit CV).
- \* Must be approved before proposal is drafted.



# PE Examples

- \* LA Office of Veterinary Health – Annual evaluation of animal shelters (ENHS )
- \* NOLA Health Department –Healthy Start Program (BCHS)
- \* HAART – Clinical management improvement project (HPSM)
- \* NO/AIDS Task Force – National HIV Behavior Surveillance (EPID)

# Deadlines

<b>If you plan on during your PE during...</b>	<b>Submit approved proposal and MOU by...</b>
<b>Fall 2015</b>	<b>June 16, 2015</b>
<b>Spring 2016</b>	<b>November 16, 2015</b>
<b>Summer 2016</b>	<b>March 28, 2016</b>

# Pre-PE Forms\*

- \* Proposal
  - \* Signed by student, preceptor and PE director.
- \* Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
  - \* Student and preceptor sign.
  - \* Defines roles and responsibilities.
- \* PDF forms available on [PE webpage](#).
- \* Word forms available from course director.

\*Additional form for new site approval; CV must be submitted for a new preceptor.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Practice Experience Proposal

Student's Name	Academic Program (BCHS, BIOS, ENHS, EPID, HP&M)	Practice Experience Organization/Agency
Mission of Organization/Agency		
Preceptor's Name	Job Title	
Phone	Email	
Project Title		
Brief Description of the Proposed Project		
List of Competencies (w/ Related Learning Objectives and Work Activities) - Minimum of 3 required		
Competency 1:	From PE Handbook	
Learning Objective(s)*	Guidance on PE webpage	
Work Activities**		
Competency 2:		
Learning Objective(s)*		
Work Activities**		

Competency 3:	
Learning Objective(s)*	
Work Activities**	
Competency 4:	
Learning Objective(s)*	
Work Activities**	
Start Date	Finish Date
Work Schedule (Student's work schedule)	

\* Learning Objectives can focus on 1) application of public health theory, knowledge and skills, 2) demonstration of proficiency in a public health practice area, or 3) demonstration of leadership, teamwork, communication skills and creativity in the development of a public health practice activity.  
 \*\*Work activities are 1) an entire project in an area of public health practice (fulfilling one of the core functions of public health: assessment, policy development, or assurance) or 2) individual activities as components of a large project.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name                      Student's Signature                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Preceptor's Name                      Preceptor's Signature                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Course Director's Signature                      Date

# Submitting Forms

- \* Choose competencies from PE Handbook.
- \* Let course director look over draft proposal before getting signature from preceptor.
- \* No late forms accepted.
- \* One exception--if you are waiting to hear if you were awarded a formal internship.

# Practice Experience Semester

# PUBH 6800 Practice Experience

- \* 200 hours or more
- \* Pass/fail course
- \* Moodle
- \* Keep your advisor and PE director up to date on issues.
- \* Make the most of it.

# Course Requirements

<b>Due Date*</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Value (% of Grade)</b>
<i>Mid-Semester</i>	Progress Report & Student Work Log (to date)	5%
<i>End of Semester</i>	Student Work Log & Evaluation of Practice Experience	5%
	Evaluation of Student (by preceptor)	50%
	Final Written Report	40%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%*</b>

\*70% = Pass.

\*Semester specific dates posted on Moodle.



# FAQ

# When do I begin the practice experience?

- \* Talk to your advisor to plan the timing and content of your practice experience.
- \* As a minimum requirement, all MPH students must successfully complete at least 10 credit hours including BIOS core, EPID core and your program core before beginning their practice experience.
- \* It is strongly recommended that students take more courses before engaging in their practice experience.
- \* Students also must complete HIPAA, CITI and SPH ethics training, as well as be in good academic standing.

# Is it necessary to get my advisor's approval to begin the practice experience?

Yes, it is absolutely necessary so s/he can continue tracking your progress through your academic degree program. You should talk with your advisor prior to planning your proposal and make sure your advisor is aware of your final plans.

# Can I conduct my practice experience out of the country?

Yes, if the site, preceptor and country are approved. Check with the practice experience office regarding your interest early. Additional paperwork may be requested.

# Can I do my practice experience at the LSUHSC School of Public Health?

In general, practice experiences are done at outside of the LSUHSC SPH to give students exposure to different environments, projects and programs, and public health professionals. However, there are several practice-based programs at LSUHSC that are available.

*Regardless of where the practice experience is done, it must be at an approved site with an approved preceptor.*

# Can I still graduate if my practice experience isn't completed?

No, all MPH graduates must have met all requirements before graduating.

# More Information

## Practice Experience Webpage:

<http://sph.lsuhsu.edu/practice-experience>

- Handbook
- Approved placement sites
- Forms

# Contact Info

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Available by appointment.