

PHC 6946
PUBLIC HEALTH INTERNSHIP

Purpose: To enable the student to apply entry-level competencies acquired in the classroom setting to public health practice through experiential activities.

Description: The internship provides an opportunity for each student to work in a public health setting in a position that carries responsibility and is of particular interest. Each placement is different, but all of them depend upon completion of most concentration coursework, the ability to work with minimal supervision, and permission of the student's supervisory committee.

Objectives: At the completion of the Public Health Internship, the student will be able to:

1. Describe newly acquired knowledge in one or more specific public health area;
2. Apply one or more MPH competency with the skill expected from a practical experience
3. Apply one or more concentration competency with the skill expected from a practical experience
4. Demonstrate professional work habits.

Course Design: This is a variable (1-9) credit course reflecting the number of hours the student is engaged at the internship site. One credit = 48 internship hours. MPH students are required to complete at least 5 internship credits.

Requirements:

To begin an internship...

1. Prepare an *Internship/Special Project Proposal Form*, including a description of the project with goals specific to the individual student. The form must be submitted to your Supervisory Chair and to the Assistant Director of Public Health Programs at least 4 weeks before the start of the internship. Goals must specify the fulfillment of at least one MPH competency and one concentration competency. Most projects will incorporate more than one of each. While internships are expected to involve a variety of enriching experiences, each student must identify in advance specific project that will serve as the basis for the major paper and final presentation on Public Health Day.
2. Obtain authorization from the site and identify an on-site preceptor at least 4 weeks prior to engaging in activities at the internship site.

During the internship...

3. Maintain a log of hours worked throughout the internship period and have it signed by the preceptor.
4. Participate in a formal evaluation session with the Supervisory Committee Chair and preceptor at about mid-term in order to receive feedback and modify the project, as appropriate.

5. Consult with your Chair on development of the final report and presentation 3-4 weeks before completion of the internship.

Upon completion of the internship...

6. Request that your preceptor complete the *Evaluation Form*.
7. Complete the *Agency and Preceptor Evaluation Form*
8. Prepare a short, factual report that includes a signed log of hours, names of projects/assignments undertaken, and whether or not they were completed during the internship.

Grading: This course is graded as Pass/Fail (S/U) based on assessments by each student's preceptor and Supervisory Committee Chair.