

MPH Field Experience Preceptor Orientation

2017-18



SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

What Is the Field Experience?

- A formal, supervised experience that supports students to take what they have learned in an academic setting and apply these concepts to the practice of public health.
- Occurs near end of MPH program
- 200 hours (6 credits) over 1 or 2 terms. Two-term field experiences are encouraged, where possible.

What is the Purpose of the Field Experience?

- To demonstrate and apply knowledge and skills gained in a public health setting
- To integrate theory and practice in a supervised, applied setting
- To become socialized into the field of public health
- To demonstrate and reflect on learning competencies

What is the Role of the Preceptor?

- Helps shape and facilitate the student's project and learning contract
- Supervises and guides the student through the field experience
- Responds to mid-term inquiry from FE coordinator regarding student performance
- Evaluates student performance by completing student evaluation at the end of the field experience.
- Communicates with FE coordinator if there are any questions or concerns

What are the Minimum Qualifications for Preceptors?

- Public health credentials, by virtue of training and/or experience, for purposes of mentoring and evaluating the student in the application of the public health skills and knowledge developed during the MPH degree program in a public health setting.
- Preceptors may not be SPH Faculty or Advisors

Can Students Be Paid?

- Payment is not expected nor required
- May be negotiated between student and preceptor
- University is not involved in these arrangements

What Does the FE Involve for the Student?

- Participation in a project addressing a public health issue, with guidance of the preceptor
- Working onsite at the agency or organization
- Applying MPH classroom experience, knowledge, and skills
- Reflecting about the field experience
- Regularly scheduled communication with the field experience coordinator to provide status updates and upcoming plans

What Does the FE Involve for the Student? (cont.)

- Completing various reports and an evaluation; providing examples of products developed (cleaned of any private or sensitive information)
- Demonstrably meeting measurable learning competencies and activities as specified in the Application and Learning Contract (see slides 12 and 13)
- Many of the programs require an oral presentation of the field experience; preceptors are invited and encouraged to attend

How Does the Student Identify a Relevant Project?

- Public health project of interest and relevance to the field site and of interest to the student
- Work that integrates skills developed across the MPH program and which provides an opportunity to demonstrate learning competencies
- Can be completed within 200-hour timeframe
- Work that does not involve client transport in cars, clinical activity, or advocacy regarding pending public policy

What are the Student's Prerequisites?

- Completion of all core and program required courses in the student's MPH program
- Completion of Application and Learning Contract
- All approvals from field experience coordinator, faculty advisor, and the university
- International travel requirements, if needed
- IRB approval or addition to IRB protocol, if needed
- Field experience agreement, if required by site

What is the FE Agreement? (If required by placement site)

- A signed interagency agreement between the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health and field placement site
- Not in field experience guidelines; will be provided by FE coordinators
- Tailored to each placement
- If required for the placement organization, must be complete and on file prior to start date
- Please contact FE Coordinator if agreement will be required

What Is Included in the Learning Contract?

- Completed and signed application
- Specific, measurable learning competencies and activities for Field Experience (i.e., the “Competency Matrix” – please see next slide)
- Description of the work student will do at field site
- Description of deliverables student will produce
- Description of how completed courses will inform field project(s)
- Projected date of completion
- Unofficial transcript of classes to date
- Current resume
- Statement of career goals

Evaluating Competencies

- Specific, measurable learning competencies and activities for Field Experience (i.e., the “Competency Matrix”)

Epidemiology Program Competency	Learning Objective	Tasks or Activities
Apply evidence-based knowledge of health determinants to public health issues.	Apply public health framework and epidemiologic methodology to gun deaths in the county.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify risk factors for gun violence based on available data/variables from medical examiner’s office2. Compare national trends in gun deaths to county trends3. Discuss with stakeholders how results of county gun death report can be used to inform policy on gun control4. Use result of this report and existing literature to support approaching gun deaths as a public health issue.

Preceptors will be asked to evaluate how well students met specified and agreed upon competencies. Did students complete fully the tasks and activities associated with the each learning objective?

Grading

- Preceptor provides feedback to the FE coordinator through direct communication during and after placement, as well as via the preceptor evaluation.
- Faculty will grade all materials and provide final course grade and comments, integrating feedback from preceptor
- Preceptors are **not** required to grade summary reports and products
- As of Fall 2015, students will receive a letter grade (A-F) for this course

How is the Preceptor's Evaluation of Student Performance Used?

- Feedback is used in consideration of the student's final grade.
- Provides additional information to advisor and FE coordinator regarding the structure of the placement
- Provides useful process information for future students seeking FE placements

What is the purpose of the Student's Evaluation?

- To reflect on the overall field experience
- To identify the challenges and successes of the FE
- To provide ideas regarding how the FE can be improved
- To assist with future placement of students
- To document applicability of the MPH competencies to the FE

How Do We Resolve Unanticipated Problems?

Preceptors:

- Work with the student to address any issues
- Contact the FE coordinator to discuss the situation
- Rely upon the Learning Contract to frame the work

Students:

- Are encouraged to resolve problems directly with the Preceptor
- If no resolution, students are to meet with the FE Coordinator
- Rely upon the learning contract to ensure learning objectives are being pursued

Coordinators by Program

- Biostatistics: *Lisa Hatfield*, hatfiell@ohsu.edu
 - Environmental Systems and Human Health: *Lisa Hatfield*, hatfiell@ohsu.edu
 - Epidemiology: *Lisa Hatfield*, hatfiell@ohsu.edu
 - Health Management and Policy: *Jill Rissi*, jrissi@pdx.edu
 - Health Promotion: *Dawn Richardson*, dawn.richardson@pdx.edu
 - Primary Healthcare and Health Disparities: *Katherine Bradley*,
bradleyk@ohsu.edu
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- For more information, please see
http://ohsu-psu-sph.org/index.php/student_life/field-experience/



Thank you for being an
OSHU-PSU School of Public Health
Preceptor!

We value your time and expertise.

All feedback is welcome
and gratefully accepted.



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