

# Orientation to the Practice Experience and Integrative Project

OHSU-PSU School of Public Health

January 24, 2020

# The Practice Experience

# What is the Practice Experience?

It is essentially a “field experience” or “internship” that is best viewed as an opportunity for your professional growth

- An **opportunity** to demonstrate and apply learning and skills in a professional setting
- An **opportunity** to reflect on program and learning competencies in the context of a professional setting
- An **opportunity** to learn new skills
- An **opportunity** for socialization into the field of public health

# You, as the student, have considerable control but also considerable responsibility

- You select the placement that you feel best aligns with your interests and the skills that you wish to develop.
- You define the learning competencies that you will practice.
- On a day-to-day basis you are immersed in a real-life public health project and you will receive direct feedback that is dependent on your professional demeanor, adaptability, follow-thru, and accountability.

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This is an important investment that you make in yourself.

# Overview

- You are free to choose the organizational or agency setting.
- You may work as part of a group of students, but you must report your learning as an individual.
- 160 contact hours with the organization is required:
  - ~20 hours per week if completed in 1 term
  - ~10 hours per week if completed over 2 terms
- The 4 credits may be split across two terms or taken in a single term.
- Your work will be guided by your Site Preceptor and your Faculty Advisor.
- Your attainment of competency objectives will be graded by your Faculty Advisor.

# The major events in the Practice Experience

1. Submission of a Learning Contract
2. Submission of the Affiliation Agreement
3. Submission of a Midway Progress Report
4. Presentation & submission of a final products
  - Oral Presentation
  - Final Summary Report
  - Portfolio (work products and CV/resume)

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Your work will be graded A-F by your Faculty Advisor and your program's PE Coordinator.

Note: If you split your PE across two terms 2 + 2 credits, your Midway Report grade will be assigned to your grade for the first term.



# Preparing for the Practice Experience

- You may enroll in the Practice Experience after you have completed 36 credits of coursework.
- It is recommended that you have completed the CPH Exam.
- In advance, you must assemble a Learning Contract that describes:
  - the organization
  - your role and responsibilities
  - your objectives and work products
  - the competencies that you will address
  - mapping of competency goals to your coursework, and
  - has signature approval from your Site Preceptor and Faculty Advisor

# Where do I do this work?

**First, think about what interests you...**

- What are your professional goals?
- What kind of work environment is important to you?
- What experiences and skills do you want to gain?

**What can't I do?**

- No clinical activities
- No driving clients in your personal car
- No working at school or home
- No working with a Primary Faculty in SPH as your preceptor

# Examples of student placements

- Public health agencies
  - City, County, State
- Non-Governmental Organizations
  - Public health projects (eg, violence prevention, housing, substance abuse treatment)
- Private sector
  - Employee health, safety and wellness
- Academic
  - Community health program (cannot be delivery of clinical services)
  - Site Preceptor cannot hold a primary faculty appointment in SPH

# Can I be paid for my Practice Experience?

- Yes, you may be paid for your effort.
- However there are requirements listed in the Affiliation Agreement.
  - Most notably, the organization cannot transfer funds to OHSU to in turn pay you. You must be paid directly by them.
- If you are already employed by the organization where you want to do your PE, you must define a project that is above and beyond your usual duties and responsibilities.
  - The intent of the PE is to apply your newly gained skills and knowledge and push out your personal experience and challenge yourself.

# Topic areas...

- Assessing opioid use in the Oregon Medicaid population
- Creating a Quality Improvement committee in a health care organization
- Equity screening of health communication processes
- Evaluating county-level disaster preparedness
- Assessing social determinants of health at OHSU's Richmond Clinic
- Equity issues in brownfields development
- Food security in at-risk pediatric populations
- Adverse birth outcomes in Pacific NW American Indians
- Pollution prevention in auto repair and construction businesses

# How do I start?

You are responsible for finding a site:

- Check SPH website and monitor list-serv announcements
- Use your personal contacts and connections
- Speak with your Faculty Adviser and mentors
- Ask other students and recent alumni
- Attend the Oral Presentations of fellow students

It is not too early to begin exploring opportunities now.

# Resources to help you:

1. “The Practice Experience Handbook” – detailed step-by-step guide
  - <https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Practice-Experience-Handbook-AY-2019-2020.pdf>
2. The SPH website
  - [https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/ipe\\_pe\\_ip/](https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/ipe_pe_ip/)
  - General overview, Learning Contract form, Affiliation Agreement form
3. The Sakai Practice Experience (becomes available when you are registered)
  - Echo360 recorded modules (how-to's, guidelines and expectations)
  - Submission locations for documents
  - Grading and administrative actions will occur via this platform

# Major components of the Learning Contract

- Organization description
- Site Preceptor (supervisor)
- Program description (mission and values)
- Your specific role and responsibilities
- Anticipated positionality and equity lens
- At least three foundational competencies to be addressed
- At least two program competencies to be addressed
- Mapping of competencies to completed coursework



# The Affiliation Agreement

- Establishes a legal relationship between the hosting organization and OHSU.
- The majority of this document addresses roles and responsibilities of the host and OHSU
- The human resources or legal department of the hosting organization signs off.
- Over the past year the SPH has established organizational-level agreements with multiple county departments of health, and also other organizations where our students have been placed.

# Exhibit A is the most important part of the AA

## Establishes the expectations and responsibilities in the Teacher-Learner Relationship

1. Lays out the Guiding principles:
  - Duty
  - Integrity
  - Respect
2. Responsibilities of the Teacher
3. Responsibilities of the Student

# Exhibit A is the most important part of the AA

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Even if the host organization has a signed Affiliation Agreement in place, you must review/sign the document with your Site Preceptor and Faculty Advisor.

# Do not overlook IRB approval

- Everyone needs to have completed CITI training
  - Responsible conduct of research (RCR)
  - Human subject protection
- The IRB process will take TIME
- Work now with your Site Preceptor and Faculty Adviser
- Non-OHSU organization: may need authorization agreement
- OHSU unit: you may simply be added to a current approved protocol
- If you are unsure if IRB approval is needed work with your Faculty Advisor to submit “Request for Determination” on OHSU’s eIRB
  - Possibly you will need to submit a full New Study description

# Special case: International sites

- Must have a host site and a Preceptor on site
- Must complete forms for International Elective Approval & Travel Waiver of Liability
  - Online process after initial submission
- The OHSU Office of International Services provides travel screening
- Student Health will help you to meet travel requirements (and provides vaccinations)
- **Must start planning several terms in advance to have all approvals in place.**

# The Integrative Project

# Description

- The Integrative Project develops a high-quality written product of professional standard.
- The paper must demonstrate your ability to integrate competencies gained in your program.
- It may be derived from your Practice Experience or may be a separate written product.
- The form of the paper will vary by student and program.
- The Integrative Project can be completed after, or simultaneously with, the Practice Experience.

# Examples

- A program evaluation plan or report
- A high-quality draft or publishable journal manuscript
- A grant proposal
- A health promotion or community engagement program plan
- An economic analysis
- A policy-related document



At minimum, the Integrative Project paper will contain:

- A thoroughly defined overview, background and significance
- A thorough literature review
- A discussion or critical analysis that demonstrates integration of at least three foundational and three program competencies
- A statement of the student's reflective practice around equity and their positionality

# Objectives

We expect the student will demonstrate:

- A thorough knowledge of a public health issue
- The ability to articulate an “equity lens” and an understanding of their positionality in the selected public health issue
- The ability to apply existing theory and empirical evidence
- The ability to articulate the public health implications of a policy, program, or research study
- Effective written communication

# Proposing your Integrative Project

Using a provided form, in consultation with your Faculty Advisor, you will briefly describe:

- the topic area and scope
- applicability to their professional goals
- sources of empirical evidence
- three or more foundational competencies to be addressed
- three or more program competencies to be addressed
- the primary public health implications

The proposal will be reviewed and approved by your program's IP Coordinator.

A Sakai site (510 IP) is established for the submission of your paper.

# Evaluation of your Integrative Project paper

- Your paper will be reviewed by two faculty (your advisor and one other)
- The grading rubric follows the student learning objectives (knowledge of issue, application of theory, evidence, integration of competencies, equity lens, and quality of writing).
- You will be assigned a letter grade of A-F for this 1-credit course.

# Summary

1. The *Practice Experience* is very similar to our past “Field Experience” (but now is reduced to 160 contact hours and 4 credits).
  - The expectations and work products are much the same as the past FE
  - The experiences will vary by student and program
  - Is completed towards the end your training, across 1 or 2 terms
2. The *Integrative Project* is new and produces a substantive written paper that can come out of the Practice Experience, or be unique
  - Its form will vary, depending on the student and the program
  - It is expected to be of professional quality
  - It is a 1-credit “course”

	<b>Practice Experience</b>	<b>Integrative Project</b>
How many hours/credits?	4 credits/ 160 contact hours over 1 or 2 terms	1 credit
Does it vary by program?	Yes	Yes
When can I enroll?	After... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completion of 36 credits</li> <li>2. Submission &amp; approval of your Learning Contract</li> <li>3. Submission &amp; approval of the Affiliation Agreement</li> </ol>	During or after PE enrollment
Who provides guidance & oversight?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Preceptor</li> <li>• Faculty Advisor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty Advisor</li> </ul>
Who evaluates my work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Preceptor</li> <li>• Faculty Advisor</li> <li>• Program PE Coordinator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two faculty</li> </ul>
What products are required?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Learning Contract</li> <li>2. Midway Progress Report</li> <li>3. Final Summary Report</li> <li>4. Portfolio (Deliverables and CV/resume)</li> <li>5. 20-minute Oral Presentation</li> </ol>	A high-quality written product of professional standard, eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Program evaluation</li> <li>- Publishable manuscript</li> <li>- Grant Proposal</li> <li>- Policy-related document</li> </ul>

# PE/IP Coordinators by Program

- Biostatistics – Byung Park, PhD [parkb@ohsu.edu](mailto:parkb@ohsu.edu)
- Epidemiology – Janne Boone-Heinonen, PhD, MPH [boonej@ohsu.edu](mailto:boonej@ohsu.edu)
- ESHH – Bill Lambert, PhD [lambertw@ohsu.edu](mailto:lambertw@ohsu.edu)
- Health Promotion – Dawn Richardson, DrPH, MPH [drichar2@pdx.edu](mailto:drichar2@pdx.edu)
- Health Management & Policy – Robin Baker, PhD [bakrob@ohsu.edu](mailto:bakrob@ohsu.edu)
- Public Health Practice – Katherine Bradley, PhD, RN [bradleyk@ohsu.edu](mailto:bradleyk@ohsu.edu)

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