Practice Experience & Integrative Project Info Session
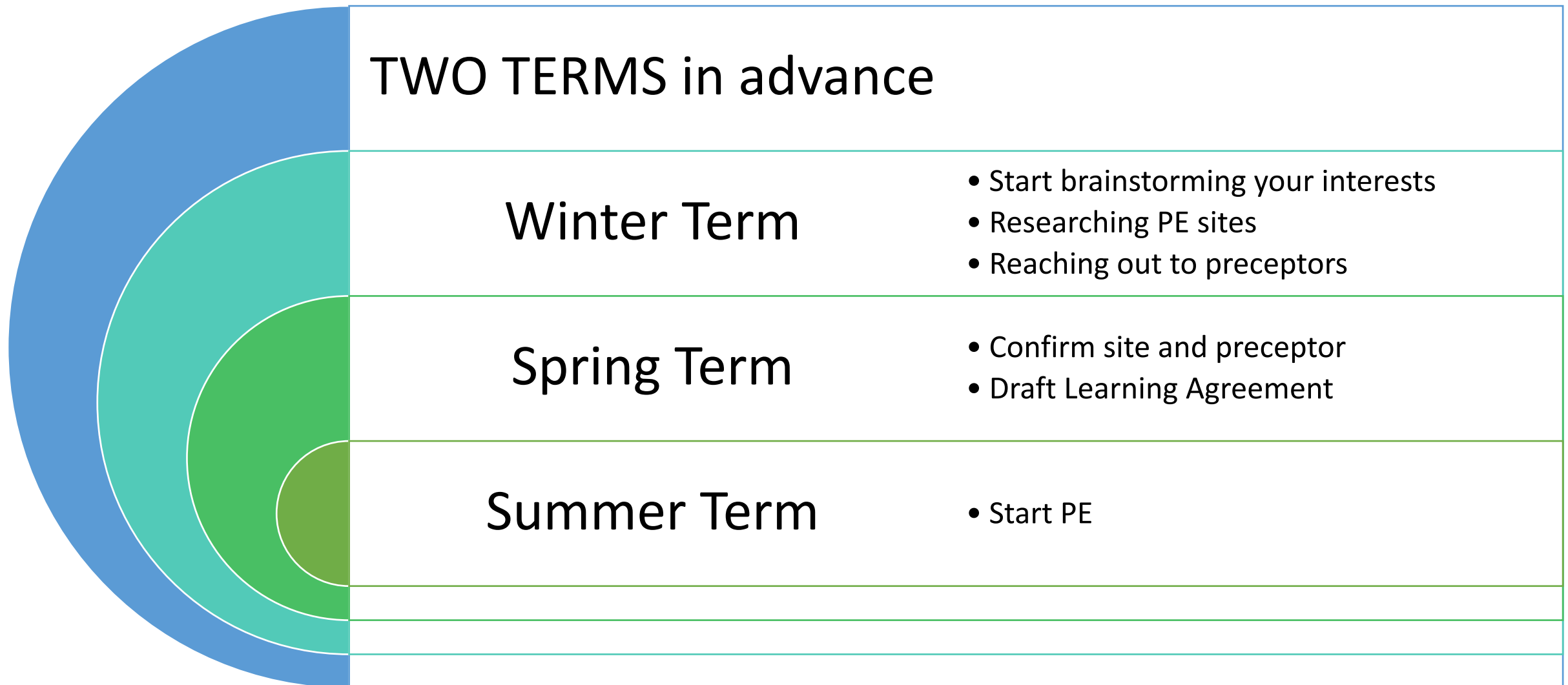
Winter 2024

What is the Practice Experience (PE)?

- An opportunity for you to take the knowledge and skills you've learned in your MPH coursework and apply them to public health work in real-life settings
- Requirement of all SPH MPH programs
- You must complete all 5 core MPH courses
  - BSTA 511/525: Intro/Est. and Hypothesis Testing for Applied Biostatistics
  - Epi 512: Epidemiology I
  - ESHH 511: Concepts of Environmental Health
  - HSMP 574: Health Systems Organization
  - PHE 512: Principles of Health Behavior
- BSTA Students – need more BSTA courses completed
- EPI Students – highly recommend have taken EPI Data (EPI 536)

PE Website: https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/applied-learning-experience/practice-experience/

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What is the PE?

- 4 credits ≈ 160 contact hours [1 credit hour ≈ 40 hours)

- Can be completed over 1 or 2 terms (or more)
  - Approx. 8 hours/week if completed over 2 terms (recommend Fall/Winter)
  - Approx. 16 hours per week if completed in 1 term
  - Over two terms, talk to your faculty advisor and PE/IP coordinator

- Demonstrate 5 learning competencies via at least 2 deliverables
  - Health equity competency (CEPH MPH Foundational Competency 6)
  - Two additional CEPH MPH Foundational Competencies
    - https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/masters-in-public-health-degrees/foundational-competencies
  - Two MPH Program Competencies from your MPH Program
    - Program Guides at https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/mph-ms-requirements/

- ***You're responsible for finding and securing your PE opportunity***

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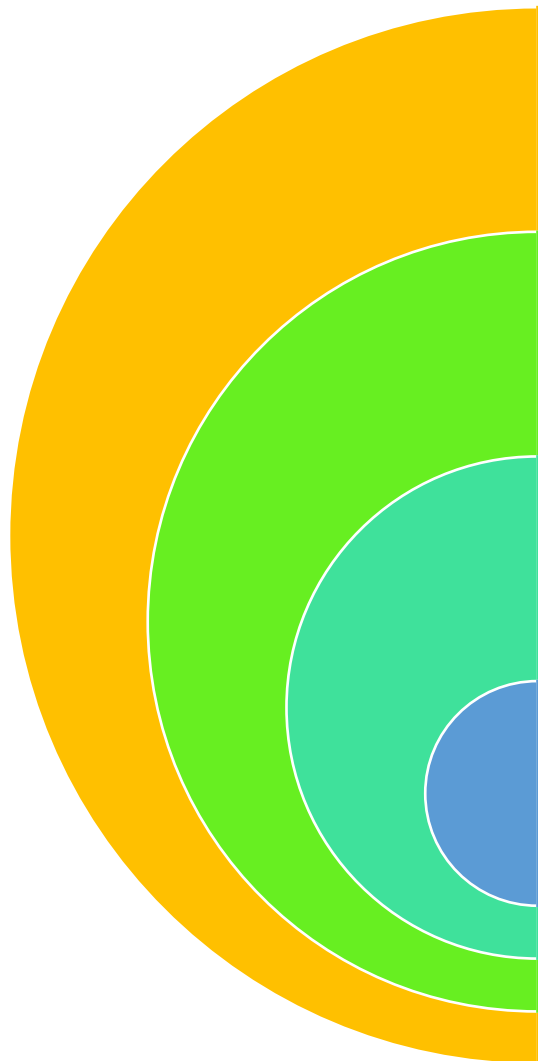
When to begin planning your PE?

TWO TERMS in advance

Winter Term
- Start brainstorming your interests
- Researching PE sites
- Reaching out to preceptors

Spring Term
- Confirm site and preceptor
- Draft Learning Agreement

Summer Term
- Start PE

PE Website: https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/applied-learning-experience/practice-experience/

Talk with your program's PE/IP coordinator to get guidance on what is an appropriate PE.

Brainstorming question suggestions

What are your career/professional goals?

What kind of work/work environment is important to you?

What experiences and skills do you want to gain?

What are the communities with whom you want to build solidarity?

PE Website: https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/applied-learning-experience/practice-experience/

Talk with your program's PE/IP coordinator to get guidance on what is an appropriate PE.

Where to find PE sites and preceptors?

Monitor
- SPH page: https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/jobs/ or https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/applied-learning-experience/practice-experience/finding-pe/
- Listserv announcements: https://groups.google.com/a/pdx.edu/g/SPH-grad-group

Search
- PE placement database EXXAT (https://steps.exxat.com/account/login)

Attend
- PE oral presentations of fellow students during finals week

Ask
- Your Faculty Advisor, PE/IP Coordinator, mentors to make introductions
- Other students, recent alumni, personal contacts for ideas and connections

Email
- Jamie Jones, Director of Applied Learning, at jljones@pdx.edu for email templates, ideas, coaching, etc.

Talk with your program's PE/IP coordinator to get guidance on what is an appropriate PE.

Where can you do your PE?

Public Health Agencies

- City
- County
- State
- Federal

CBOs/NGOs

- Community-specific (BIPOC, LGBTQ, etc.)
- Issue-specific (housing, substance use disorders, violence prevention, etc.)

Private Sector

- Healthcare setting
- Employee health and wellness
- Occupational safety and health

Academia

- Must primarily focus on community engagement, typically with external partners

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RESOURCE RECOMMENDATION: Complete Oregon's Public Health System training: https://rise.articulate.com/share/5b-Wi7E3t7DoIafChpoz_OG19W04jGWr#/

What can (or can't) you do for your PE?

Can

- Get paid
- Complete your PE with your current employer
  - *BUT* the project/work for the PE must map to competencies to be eligible for consideration

Can't

- Work that doesn't demonstrate your public health competencies
- No direct patient, client, or clinical work
- Do not recommend same PE supervisor as work supervisor

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PE Website: https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/applied-learning-experience/practice-experience/

Talk with your program's PE/IP coordinator to get guidance on what is an appropriate PE.

Before starting your PE

Recommendations

- Mark registration dates and due dates on your calendar
  - https://calendar.google.com/
  - https://outlook.office.com/
- Complete the CPH Exam

Resources

- SPH PE (and IP) Websites
- Practice Experience Calendar
- EXXAT Database
- Workshops

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Before starting your PE

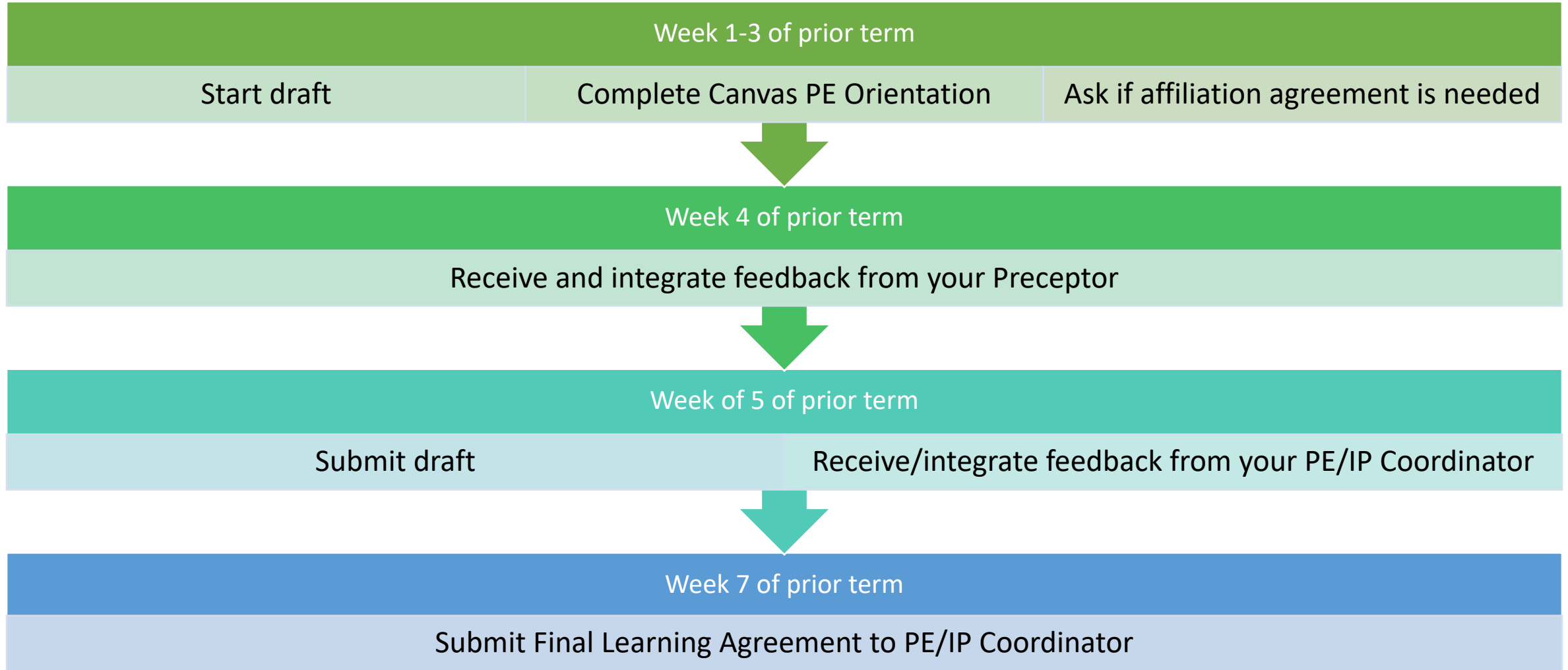**Two Terms Prior**
- Researching PE sites
- Reaching out to preceptors

One Term Prior
- Site confirmed
- Learning Agreement

PE Website: https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/applied-learning-experience/practice-experience/

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Learning Agreement Timeline

Week 1-3 of prior term		
Start draft	Complete Canvas PE Orientation	Ask if affiliation agreement is needed

Week 4 of prior term
Receive and integrate feedback from your Preceptor

Week of 5 of prior term	
Submit draft	Receive/integrate feedback from your PE/IP Coordinator

Week 7 of prior term
Submit Final Learning Agreement to PE/IP Coordinator

PE Website: https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/applied-learning-experience/practice-experience/

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Learning Agreement Components

Your Information: Core course completion, current CV/resume

Organization and preceptor information: Location, org mission/values; Preceptor name, title, credentials, contact info

PE orientation completion confirmation

- **Required Canvas Orientation!**

Reflection on the coursework you've taken and your previous/current work experiences that have provided you with the skills and knowledge to complete your PE
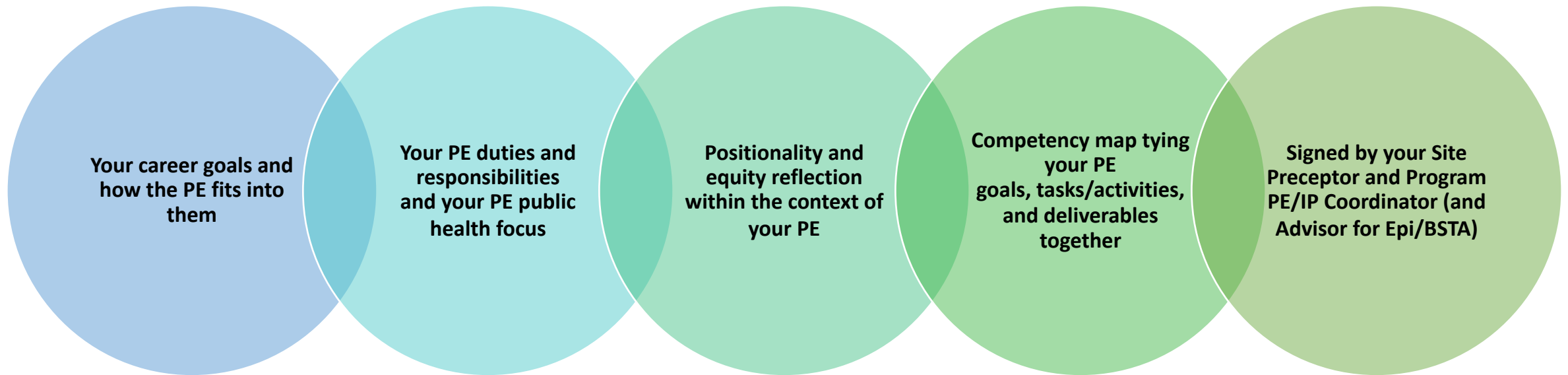
Download the Learning Agreement from https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/applied-learning-experience/practice-experience/prerequisites-planning/
Learning Agreement Workshop Schedule: https://sites.google.com/pdx.edu/mph-pe-calendar/

PE Website: https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/applied-learning-experience/practice-experience/

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Learning Agreement Components

Your career goals and how the PE fits into them

Your PE duties and responsibilities and your PE public health focus

Positionality and equity reflection within the context of your PE

Competency map tying your PE goals, tasks/activities, and deliverables together

Signed by your Site Preceptor and Program PE/IP Coordinator (and Advisor for Epi/BSTA)

Positionality Workshop Schedule: https://sites.google.com/pdx.edu/mph-pe-calendar/
RESOURCE RECOMMENDATION: YWCA Social Justice Trainings ($10/student rate) https://www.ywcapdx.org/events/social-justice-trainings/

PE Website: https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/applied-learning-experience/practice-experience/

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Before starting your PE

Affiliation Agreements

- **Needed** if you are unpaid, classified as intern, or receive a stipend
- Not needed if your PE is at OHSU or PSU
- Not needed if you're classified as a paid temporary employee
- Affiliation Agreement on the SPH PE website

Registration

- https://www.pdx.edu/registration/academic-calendar
- https://www.ohsu.edu/education/academic-calendar
- RECOMMENDATION: Register for your PE over two terms (fall, winter)

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Talk with your program's PE/IP coordinator to get guidance on what is an appropriate PE.

Before starting your PE

IRB Approval
- Needed if working on a research project
- Research is a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge
- *If you will be doing research for your PE, contact your PE/IP Coordinator at least two terms in advance*

International Sites
- Must complete forms for International Elective Approval & Travel Waiver of Liability
- 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*

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Talk with your program's PE/IP coordinator to get guidance on what is an appropriate PE.

During and after your PE

Midway Progress Report

- Over 2 terms: due week 10 of 1st term
- Over 1 term: due week 5
- Template in Sakai/PE website

Portfolio & Deliverables

- Due Friday of week 10 of PE completion term
- Outline in Sakai
- Demonstrates your ability to communicate your overall experience and attainment of competencies
- Opportunity to showcase your PE and the work you completed
- 2 deliverables demonstrating 5 competencies

Oral Presentation

- Concludes your PE
- 20-minute presentation + 10-minute Q & A
- Meant to be a focused demonstration of your accomplishments

Review the PE syllabus at https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/applied-learning-experience/practice-experience/prerequisites-planning/

Deliverable Examples

Data Collection Plan	Qual/Quant Data Analysis Plan
Communication Materials	Data Analysis
GIS Map	Program script
Program Evaluation	Draft Manuscript Sections
Literature Review	Statistical Output
Survey Instrument	External-facing community engagement summary
Focus Group Protocol	Systems Thinking Diagram
Healthcare Network Map	Curriculum
Statewide Program Census	Report
Toolkit	Website/App

Integrative Project

- Serves as one of the culminating experience of your MPH training (in addition to the CPH exam and Practice Experience)
- Opportunity to demonstrate your academic learning *and* public health practice skills
- Result is a **high-quality written product** that must demonstrate your
  - Command of public health competencies learned during your MPH
  - Ability to synthesize and integrate 6 competencies
    - Health equity (CEPH 6) + 2 foundational competencies + 3 program competencies

IP Website: https://ohsu-psu-sph.org/integrative-project/

Talk with your program's PE/IP coordinator to get guidance on what is an appropriate IP.

Integrative Project

- Recommend IP be derived from your PE, **but it doesn't have to**
- May take various forms
  - Program evaluation, policy/economic analysis, grant proposal, health promotion/community engagement program plan, publishable manuscript, etc.
- **Plan to spend about 30 hours (3 hours/week)**
- See IP website for
  - IP Proposal Form
  - Integrative Project Syllabus

Talk with your program's PE/IP coordinator to get guidance on what is an appropriate IP.