

PUH/ENH/EPI/HB/HCOP 697
Syllabus

Title: Public Health Internship

Instructor: Each student's faculty advisor or designee serves as the instructor for the internship. Faculty advisors are involved in selection and approval of internship sites and special projects; development of documents for IRB approval, if necessary; supervision of the internship; and assignment of a final grade.

Credit Hours: 3

Meeting Time/Day: Class takes place in a field based setting for 180 hours over the course a semester.

Purpose: To enable MPH students 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 depend upon completion of most coursework, the ability to work with minimal supervision, and acquiring permission of the student's SOPH advisor and on-site preceptor/supervisor. The MPH is a professional degree that prepares individuals to develop basic public health skills. The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), our accrediting agency, requires that each MPH student be able to demonstrate the application of these concepts through an internship experience that is relevant to his or her area of specialization. This experience must be appropriately planned, supervised, and evaluated. Students should have completed the core classes before registering for an internship, so that usually means internships are performed in the summer of the first year at the earliest. Some programs vary from this general policy. To be sure about when you are eligible to register for your internship, check with your department's program coordinator.

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(s)
2. Apply at least five (5) competencies, of which at least three (3) must be MPH foundational competencies, with the skill expected from a practical experience
3. Apply additional foundational or concentration-specific competencies, if appropriate, with the skills expected from a practical experience
4. Demonstrate professional work habits

Competencies: The student and the faculty advisor will identify an appropriate set of MPH and discipline-specific competencies to be accomplished through the field-based internship and the required activities and final product.

MPH Foundational Competencies

COMPETENCY	COURSE NUMBER(S) OR OTHER EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health	
1. Apply epidemiological methods to the breadth of settings and situations in public health practice.	BST 601/BST 601Q EPI 600/EPI 600Q EPI 610/EPI 610Q
2. Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context.	BST 601/BST 601Q EPI 600/EPI 600Q EPI 610/EPI 610Q
3. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate.	BST 601/BST 601Q EPI 610/EPI 610Q
4. Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice.	BST 601/BST 601Q EPI 600/EPI 600Q EPI 610/EPI 610Q
Public Health & Health Care Systems	
5. Compare the organization, structure and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across national and international settings.	HCO 600/HCO 600Q
6. Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and societal levels.	HCO 600/HCO 600Q
Planning & Management to Promote Health	
7. Assess population needs, assets, and capacities that affect communities' health.	HB 600/HB 600Q
8. Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs.	HB 600/HB 600Q
9. Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention.	HB 600/HB 600Q HCO 600/HCO 600Q
10. Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management.	HCO 600/HB 600Q
11. Select methods to evaluate public health programs.	HCO 600/HCO 600Q HB 600/HB 600Q
Policy in Public Health	
12. Discuss multiple dimensions of the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence.	ENH 611/ENH 611Q ENH600/ENH 600Q HCO 600/HCO 600Q
13. Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes.	HCO 600/HCO 600Q HB 600/HB 600Q
14. Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations.	HCO 600/HCO 600Q
15. Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity	HCO 600/HCO 600Q
Leadership	
16. Apply principles of leadership, governance and management, which include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration and guiding decision making.	HCO 600/HCO 600Q
17. Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges.	HCO 600/HCO 600Q
Communication	
18. Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors.	ENH 611/ENH 611Q ENH600/ENH 600Q HB 600/HB 600Q HCO 600/HCO 600Q
19. Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation.	PUH 697
20. Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content.	HB 600/HB 600Q
Interprofessional Practice	
21. Perform effectively on interprofessional teams	PUH 695/PUH 695Q
Systems Thinking	
22. Apply systems thinking tools to a public health issue.	ENH 611 HCO 600/HCO 600Q

Grading: This course is graded as Pass/No Pass based on completion of all internship requirements, including the final project (s) and poster presentation.

Disability Services: Any student with a disability that may need accommodations to successfully complete all requirements of this course should visit the Office of Disability Support Services, extension 4-4205. This office is responsible for registering students and ensuring the University's compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disability Act. Once registered, this office will then inform faculty members of all courses in which the student is enrolled, of the student's status and the specific nature of any accommodations required. Any student requiring such accommodation should discuss this with the course master and assure that the appropriate correspondence is sent from the Office of Disability Support Services.

Title IX: The University of Alabama at Birmingham is committed to providing an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have been the victim of sexual discrimination, harassment, misconduct, or assault we encourage you to report the incident. UAB provides several avenues for reporting. For more information about Title IX, policy, reporting, protections, resources and supports, please visit <http://www.uab.edu/titleix> for UAB's Title IX Policy and UAB's Equal Opportunity and Anti-Harassment Policy.

Honor Code: As a student in the School of Public Health, you are subject to the School of Public Health Student Honor Code which can be found at <http://www.soph.uab.edu/students/honorcode>. You are responsible to understand the contents of the Honor Code and to abide by it. Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism is the undocumented use of other authors' words, texts, images, and ideas that don't come from your own head. Making up sources, altering numbers, statistics, or just a few words of a document is considered plagiarism. Poor documentation or paraphrasing of a source is also considered plagiarism. Plagiarism in this course is taken seriously; any violations will be punished to the full extent allowable under the School of Public Health Honor Code. All assignments will be submitted through the Turn-It-In system to document the originality of your contributions to the class.

REQUIREMENTS

Acceptable practice experience sites - Applied practice experiences may involve governmental, non-governmental, non-profit, industrial and for-profit settings or appropriate university-affiliated settings. To be appropriate for applied practice experience activities, university-affiliated settings must be primarily focused on community engagement, typically with external partners. University health promotion or wellness centers may also be appropriate.

1. Review the internship requirements and timeline with your internship coordinator (email, phone, or in-person meeting is acceptable)
2. Complete all internship requirements as outlined in the Internship Agreement (including all required forms)
3. Students must complete a minimum of 180 contact hours with the organization during the semester in which they register for the internship.

4. **Mid-Point Meeting:** The mid-point meeting is an opportunity for you to reflect on where you are in your internship and evaluate what needs to be done for you to gain the most out of your experience. Approximately halfway through the internship, you will complete the mid-point meeting worksheet via the InternTrack System. The student should set up a time to meet with their site supervisor and faculty advisor to review this information. The both the site supervisor and faculty advisor will need to confirm the meeting took place.
5. **Final Project:** The final project will consist of a paper that addresses the objectives, activities, and competencies of the internship. The paper should be at least 5 pages in length, in 12pt. font, Times New Roman with, 1" margins. It is due the last day of classes during the semester in which the student completes the internship (the internship coordinator will give you the exact date). Detailed instructions will be available from your internship coordinator and are posted to the UAB SOPH Field Placement website
6. **Poster Session:** All students must prepare a poster presentation to be displayed and presented in the School on the last Friday of the semester (actual date to be determined each semester). Detailed instructions will be available from your internship coordinator and are posted to the UAB SOPH Field Placement website. Exceptions to attending the poster session will be considered on a case by case basis through your internship coordinator (for example, students who are completing their internship in another state or country); however, the poster should still be created and presented to the faculty advisor even if the student is not able to attend.
7. **Final Evaluations:** Both the student and site supervisor are expected to complete a final evaluation. These evaluations will be very important in determining the value of your work experience for both yourself and other students who may wish to follow you in the same situation.

CHECKLIST

- Check with your department's program coordinator for any special department/program requirements
- Identify, choose, and consult with a faculty internship advisor
- Apply for an internship. This internship can be one that is coordinated through the school (either HireABlazer - UAB's Career Management Site or Get a Handle Student Newsletter). You may also identify your own opportunity. All internships must be approved by your faculty advisor.
- Complete and submit "UAB School of Public Health Internship Description & Agreement Form" via InternTrack
- If necessary, complete and submit IRB Approval Form
- If you are an international student (F-1 or J-1 visa holder), complete and submit appropriate form to the International Scholar and Student Services Office

- If you are traveling abroad at any point during your internship, register with UAB Education Abroad
- Have both your site supervisor and faculty advisor electronically approve your Internship Description and Agreement Form via InternTrack
- Contact your Program Coordinator and register for your internship in BlazerNet
- Complete the midpoint meeting form in InternTrack
- Formally check in with your site supervisor and faculty advisor during a mid-point meeting approximately halfway through the internship. Have your site supervisor complete a midpoint evaluation and confirm the midpoint meeting. Have your faculty advisor confirm the midpoint meeting.
- Submit final evaluation forms and final product(s) last week of semester to your program coordinator
- Submit and attend poster session in InternTrack