

## UConn Health, Department of Public Health Sciences, Master of Public Health Program

### Applied Public Health Practice Learning Experience FIELD EXPERIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS

**Overview and Goals of the Applied Public Health Practice Learning Experience:** The applied public health practice learning experiences collectively include the Independent Practicum, Field Experience in Public Health, and other related individual studies elective courses that largely focus on community-centered applied public health practice field work.

The goals, course requirements, and criteria for all the applied public health practice learning experiences are based on the MPH Program core course, the Practicum in Public Health, which is a group, rather than individual, community-centered applied public health practice learning experience. All applied public health learning experiences, group or individual, are part of the MPH Program's aim to prepare students with the understanding, knowledge, experience, skills and values necessary to successfully function as highly competent public health practitioners and leaders.

The **organizing principles** of the applied public health practice learning experience courses are:

- *Public health practice is trans-disciplinary* - Comprehensive understanding of public health issues and effective interventions require simultaneous consideration of individual, interpersonal and environmental perspectives
- *Public health practice is a shared enterprise* - Collaboration between schools and the public health practice community is essential to assuring that all communities have access to effective principles and techniques for disease control and community improvement
- *Public health practice is orderly* - Effective interventions are predicated on sequential steps of assessment, asset mapping, planning, programming and evaluation
- *Public health practice is humanizing* - Interacting with stakeholders expands data and increases capacity for beneficial social change.

**Students' Performance Requirements and Grades:** To achieve a passing grade for the Field Experience, students must successfully complete the following performance requirements:

- **Reflections:** Students will write and submit three reflections over the course of the semester. Reflections should be emailed to Dr. Brown ([stbrown@uchc.edu](mailto:stbrown@uchc.edu)) **AND** to your Site Project Preceptor. These narratives are 1-3 pages in length and should demonstrate the student's reflections on their participation in the course/project activities. Topics for reflection include: experience working on the project, evaluation of personal and group efforts, experience interacting with other public health experts, and self assessment of personal professional growth. Reflection prompts are emailed to the student; however the student may choose to reflect on topics not listed.
- **Pre and Post Competency Assessment, Learning Objectives and SMART Goals:** Students will submit a competency self-assessment both prior to the start of their Field Experience project and afterwards to ascertain their progress. They will also develop learning objectives for their Field Experience and individual S.M.A.R.T. goals. Forms with additional instructions are provided.
- **Final Reports:** Students are required to compile a written report describing their project, data, findings, observations, recommendations, and personal experience. This report is **due by Monday, the week prior to the end of the semester**.
- **Student Presentation:** Students conducting a Field Experience will arrange an appropriate venue/date/time with their Site Project Preceptors for the presentation. In the event that a presentation is impractical, an alternative assignment can be developed by contacting the Field Experience Director.

- **Course Evaluation:** Students and Site Project Preceptors will complete the evaluation forms provided to them. The forms are due by Monday, the last week of the semester.

**Course Learning Objectives and Competencies:**

1. Identify the main components and issues of the organization, financing, and delivery of health and public health service systems at the national, state, and community levels
2. Discuss policy and legislative processes for improving the health status of populations
3. Describe federal and state regulatory programs, guidelines and authorities that control health issues
4. Apply "systems thinking" to resolving organizational problems
5. Apply the principles of program planning, development, budgeting, implementation, and evaluation to state and community public health programs and initiatives
6. Describe the role of history, social organization and structured inequality in the production of health disparities
7. Develop public health programs and strategies responsive to the diverse cultural values and traditions of the communities being served
8. Identify and engage critical stakeholders, and demonstrate skills in building effective sustainable partnerships and collaborations, that assure effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of public health programs and initiatives
9. Use information technology to access, evaluate, and interpret public health data
10. Demonstrate effective written and oral skills for communicating with different audiences in the context of professional public health activities

**You can fill form below in Acrobat Reader, but please print to get signatures, then scan to return in email.**

**Applied Public Health Practice Learning Experience**  
**FIELD EXPERIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS LEARNING CONTRACT**

**Semester/Year:** Fall \_\_\_\_\_ Spring \_\_\_\_\_ Summer \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Please PRINT**

**Student name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Major Advisor:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Preceptor:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Association: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Site:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Anticipated Start Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Anticipated End Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Checklist** (Include all that apply):

\_\_\_\_\_ I have completed required protection of confidential health information (HIPPA) training and attached a copy of my certification to this application.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have completed required protection of human subjects in research (IRB) training and attached copies of my certification to this application.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have submitted an IRB proposal to the UConn or UCSOM IRB Office. A copy of their approval is attached.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have submitted an IRB proposal to the following organization where this project will be completed. A copy of their approval is attached to this application. (**NOTE: Be sure to attach copy.**)

Name of organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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**NOTE:**

**Attach a recent copy of your resume**

**Attach a 2-page description of your proposed project that:**

- Summarizes the project's rationale (Why is it an appropriate applied public health project? What will be accomplished by the completion of the project?)
- Lists your learning objectives for the project
- Indicates relevant MPH Program competencies that the project addresses
- Lists performance objectives (measurable results and outcomes) that demonstrate accomplishment of your goals and objectives for the project.

**Applied Public Health Practice Learning Experience**  
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**ENDORSEMENTS**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Complete for all that apply to your project**

1. **MPH Program Course Instructor:** I approve the proposed applied public health project, described in the attached summary, as a valuable applied practice learning experience that conforms to the learning objectives and competencies criteria for the Practicum in Public Health course.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

2. **DPH Course Instructor** (NOTE: Only required for the Field Experience in Public Health at CT DPH): I approve the proposed applied public health project described in the attached summary as a valuable applied practice learning experience that conforms to the course learning objectives and competencies criteria for the Field Experience in Public Health.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

3. **Site Project Preceptor:** I approve of the proposed applied public health project, described in the attached summary, as a useful project for my affiliated agency/program. I agree to work with the student while he/she completes the proposed activities. Upon completion of the proposed scope of work, I will submit a brief written evaluation of the student's performance and experience in applied public health practice.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date