

MPH Practicum Preceptor Tips

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

MPH Practicum Project Criteria

- Is a minimum of 100 hours (e.g. 6-8 hours per week for 4 months is about 100 hours)
- Is population-health focused, public health *practice* activities
- Is supervised and evaluated by a qualified preceptor
- Applies at least five public health competencies

MPH Students at a Glance

- At least two years of full-time post-baccalaureate, health-related work experience or doctoral degree in field underlying public health
- 50 percent in medical profession, 50 percent in diversity of fields (e.g. policy, engineering, research assistants, lawyers, peace corps, etc.)
- Core curriculum grounded in foundational public health knowledge, informed by the critical disciplines in public health (including: biostatistics, epidemiology, social and behavioral determinants of health, management sciences, public health problem-solving, computer applications, demography, environmental health, biological sciences, and public health policy) as well as cross-cutting and emerging public health areas.

MPH Program Offers the Following Concentrations

- Aging and Public Health
- Child and Adolescent Health
- Epidemiologic & Biostatistical Methods for Public Health & Clinical Research
- Food, Nutrition, and Health
- Food Systems and Public Health
- Global Environmental Sustainability & Health
- Health in Crisis and Humanitarian Assistance
- Health Leadership and Management
- Health Systems and Policy
- Infectious Diseases
- Social & Behavioral Sciences in Public Health
- Women's and Reproductive Health

Academic School Year

- View the current academic calendar: <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/academics/academic-calendar>
- All students have a one-month winter break from late December through mid-January
- All students have a one-week spring break in March

Preceptor Responsibilities (brief overview)

- Work with the identified student to complete a [Practicum Learning Plan](#)
- Supervise and guide the student through the project
- Evaluate the student:
 - **Progress Report** at mid-point: <http://tinyurl.com/progress-preceptor-complete>
 - **Final Report** at completion: <http://tinyurl.com/final-preceptor-complete>
- Communicate with JHSPH regarding any issues/concerns (practice@jhu.edu)
- More information here: <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/offices-and-services/office-of-public-health-practice-and-training/information-for-preceptors>

Considerations when Developing Practicum Project

- If outside the Baltimore City area, consider allowing remote/virtual work.
- If seeking a student to begin in the fall, we recommend submitting a project by September. Winter break projects should be submitted by November. Projects with a spring start should be submitted by February. Summer projects should be submitted by May.
- Students may be able to devote more time to practicums during the winter or spring breaks.
- Recommended hours per week range from 4 to 10. While you may request more than 10 hours per week, we have found that most students have difficulty committing to more than 10 when also balancing coursework, work/professional commitments, and personal/familial commitments.
- Compensation for the practicum is not required. If there is payment involved, the preceptor and student must negotiate the terms; JHSPH is not involved in arranging any form of payment.
- Consider requesting a resume/CV and a cover letter to assess a student's interest and qualifications for the project. If strong writing skills are required, consider requesting a writing sample. We also recommend conducting in-person, phone, or video interviews to ensure best fit.

Examples of Practicum Project Activities

- Analyze barriers to implementation and present recommendations
- Conduct cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit, and cost utility analyses
- Conduct needs assessments
- Contribute to the measuring, reporting and continuous improvement of organizational performance
- Design health programs/curricula
- Assess the feasibility and expected outcomes of policy options
- Develop and implement quality improvement projects
- Gather information relevant to specific public health policy issues, develop policy recommendations
- Investigate new partnerships and client resources
- Organize, analyze, and summarize study data

How to Submit a Practicum Opportunity Description

- Link to online Practicum Opportunity Site: <https://pos.jhsph.edu/>
 - New users will need to create an account by clicking "Preceptor Registration"
 - If your start/end dates are flexible, leave those fields blank when completing the form, and indicate flexibility in the project description text.

Requesting Feedback on Project Ideas

- Have a project idea but not sure if it aligns to the MPH practicum criteria? Need assistance defining project scope or activities? Contact Paulani Mui (pmui1@jhu.edu) for a meeting to discuss further.

Project Description Approval Timeline (approximately 2-5 weeks)

- Step 1: Submit project description for review
- Step 2 (1-2 weeks): Initial review by Practicum Coordinator
- Step 3 (1-2 weeks): Practicum Coordinator and Preceptor are in communication to resolve any questions or concerns about the project
- Step 4 (1 week): Once project is approved, the project description is posted for student viewing

Questions? Contact the Practice Office

- MPH Practicum Coordinator, Paulani Mui, pmui1@jhu.edu, 410-502-8952