



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**Guidelines for MPH Culminating Projects
Academic Year 2020-2021**

Division of Environmental Health Sciences

The purpose of a culminating project (CP) is to address an environmental health problem or issue and can take the form of 1) an applied research project; 2) a grant proposal; or 3) a critical review. Other forms are possible with the approval of your advisor. The applied research project will entail either the collection of primary data or acquisition of secondary data for the purpose of answering an environmental health question and/or making a case for change. Ideally, this applied scholarly/research project will be suitable for submission as a peer-reviewed journal publication. The grant proposal option addresses a practical public health issue and can take the form required by the targeted funding agency, but must include a clear statement of the problem and methods for addressing the problem. The critical review will provide an in-depth analysis of a problem or issue relying on published literature.

Projects that involve human subjects must adhere to policies and procedures of the University's Institutional Review Board (IRB) (<http://orrrp.osu.edu/irb/>).

- 1. How Does Your Practicum Relate to the CP?** The relationship between your CP and practicum may vary from extensive to none. The purposes of these two MPH experiences differ. The practicum is largely externally directed and is intended to provide real-world environmental health experience with government, private industry, or NGO. In contrast, the CP is self-directed and defined (with faculty advice). However, there can be synergy between the practicum and CP in that ideas and opportunities for the CP can arise from the Practicum. Data from the practicum can be used to develop the CP. Synergy between the Practicum and CP can enhance both experiences.
- 2. CP Report Requirements.** Your CP will be evaluated based on your written report and oral presentation. The written report requirements typically include 20-25 pages, double spaced, with 25 references (Table 1). The oral presentation occurs in two parts. The first part may be a public seminar that is 30-40 min in duration and includes 10 min for Q&A. Although not mandatory, this oral presentation is typically scheduled as a part of the Division's weekly seminar series. Students are to work with their CP and academic advisor in developing their presentations. It is the student's responsibility to schedule the seminar at a time when both the CP advisor and 2nd reader are available to attend. Both the advisor and second reader must attend the public seminar. The second part of the oral presentation typically follows the public seminar and includes the student, CP advisor, and 2nd reader. Faculty will "discuss" the project with the student to evaluate the student's mastery of the project and the underlying environmental health principles and concepts. This portion of the exam typically lasts from 30 to 60 minutes. The culminating project is graded S/U.
- 3. Timeline Considerations.** It is the student's responsibility to plan their efforts so that faculty have adequate time to review their CP draft submissions well before the deadline for signing-off on the Master's Examination form. Students should plan to submit two complete drafts of their report to their CP advisor before their final draft is submitted to both their CP advisor and 2nd reader. Students should allow a minimum of one week for Faculty to review and comment on draft reports.

The outline below is the format for BSPH-EPH and MPH-EHS proposals and projects. The format also may be used to for MS and PhD proposals too, but these students are encouraged to follow a NIH proposal format. The final project may follow this format or may be in form of a journal article and therefore would follow the applicable journal guidelines. However, for an MS thesis and PhD dissertation, even if student opts for journal submissions, both require an introduction section as shown below.

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ABSTRACT

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INTRODUCTION

Background

Purpose and Rationale

Objectives

Hypothesis (if applicable)

LITERATURE REVIEW

<Applicable Subheadings to Organize Content>

MATERIAL AND METHODS

*****Above for *Proposal*...Also add below for *Project******

RESULTS

<Applicable Subheadings to Organize Content>

DISCUSSION

<Applicable Subheadings to Organize Content...include Limitations>

CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

REFERENCES