



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Guidelines for MPH Research Paper or Reports Academic Year 2023-2024

Division of Environmental Health Sciences

The purpose of an integrative learning experience (ILE) research paper or report is to address an environmental health problem or issue and can take the form of 1) an applied research project; or 2) a critical review. The deliverable is in the form of a research paper or report. Other forms, such as a grant proposal, may be possible with the approval of your advisor. The applied research paper or report will entail either the collection of primary data or acquisition of secondary data, analysis, and interpretation for the purpose of answering an environmental health question and/or making a case for change. Ideally, this applied research paper or report 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, biohazardous agents, or animals must adhere to policies and procedures of the University relative to the Institutional Review Board (IRB), Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), respectively.

1. **How Does Your Applied Practice Experience Practicum Relate to the Integrative Learning Experience Research Paper or Report?** The relationship between your research paper or report and your practicum may vary from no relationship to extensive relevance. 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 research project with corresponding preparation and presentation of a research paper or report is self-directed with advisor oversight.
2. **Research Paper or Report Requirements.** Your integrative learning experience (ILE) will be evaluated based on your written research paper or report plus an oral presentation. The written report requirements typically include 20-25 pages, double-spaced, with appropriately formatted references (Table 1). The scheduled oral presentation is 20-30 min in duration plus 20-30 min for Q&A. Students are to work with their ILE advisor in developing their presentations. It is the student's responsibility to schedule the presentation at a time when both the ILE advisor and 2nd reader are available to attend. 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. The ILE 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 ILE research paper or report draft submissions well before the deadline for signing-off on the Master's Examination form via the Graduate School GradForms portal. Students should plan to submit at least one draft version to their ILE advisor before their final version is submitted to both their ILE advisor and 2nd reader. Students should allow a minimum of one week for these 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