

## **Applied Practice Experience for MPH Students (CEPH Criterion D.5.)**

(NOTE: Comments and examples are OSU CPH Additions to the Excerpts from CEPH Accreditation Criteria 2016)

Revised April 3, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated uncertainty regarding onsite opportunities for the MPH practicum experience, the College of Public Health and its Graduate Studies Committee have endorsed a broader set of options for summer and autumn terms 2020. The following is a summary of relevant information including the categories of options. (The options are extracted from the *CEPH Accreditation Criteria 2016* for the *Applied Practice Experience* (APE) required to earn the MPH degree.):

- MPH students planning to complete a practicum during SU20 or AU20 will still follow the steps outlined to register for the practicum course (PUBHLTH 7189), regardless which option from among the five that follow applies:

### **CEPH Criterion D.5. MPH Applied Practice Experiences**

MPH students **demonstrate competency attainment through *applied practice experiences***.

Applied practice experiences may be concentrated in time or may be spread throughout a student's enrollment. *We encourage MPH students to complete their applied practice experience in one term. If there is a need to extend beyond one term, then the student will receive an Incomplete ("I") grade, assuming there has been either demonstration of good progress or there was a delay due to extenuating factors.* Opportunities may include the following:

- **a practicum or internship completed during a summer or academic term.** . . *An example is unpaid or paid, full-time or part-time work by an MPH student at one or more agencies or organizations for a total minimum of 120 hours.* (NOTE: This historically has been the only option we permitted at OSU CPH. However, opportunities may be fewer this year even when social isolation restrictions end. If a site is willing to sponsor a practicum but does not want or can't have students onsite, explore a project with them that can be conducted virtually from afar.)
- **course-based (e.g., PUBHLTH 7189) activities (e.g., performing a needed task for a public health or health care organization under the supervision of a faculty member as an individual or group of students).** . . *An example is unpaid or paid, full-time or part-time work by an MPH student assisting a faculty member who is in turn assisting an agency or organization (e.g. local or state agency; hospital/health care system) for a total minimum of 120 hours.*
- **activities linked to service learning, as defined by the program, school or university.** . . *An example is activity by an MPH student within an approved service learning course involving a "form of experiential education characterized by student participation in an organized service activity that (1) is connected to specific learning outcomes; (2) meets identified community need(s); and (3) provides structured time for student reflection and connection of the service experience to learning (OSU Office Service Learning)" for a total minimum of 120 hours.*
- **co-curricular activities (eg, service and volunteer opportunities, such as those organized by a student association).** . . *An example is activity by an MPH student engaged in a formal project for a community agency organization as part of a broader project by a student group for a total minimum of 120 hours.*
- **a blend of for-credit and/or not-for-credit activities.** . . *An example is a combination of activities that are aligned with two of the above categories.*

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.

The school or program identifies sites in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of the agencies or organizations involved. Activities meeting the applied practice experience should be mutually beneficial to both the site and the student. **The applied practice experiences allow each student to demonstrate attainment of at least five competencies, of which at least three must be foundational competencies (as defined in Criterion D.2.)**. The competencies need not be identical from student to student, but the applied experiences must be structured to ensure that all students complete

experiences addressing at least five competencies, as specified above. The applied experiences may also address additional foundational or concentration-specific competencies, if appropriate.

The school or program assesses each student’s competency attainment in practical and applied settings through a portfolio approach, which demonstrates and allows assessment of competency attainment. **It must include at least two products.** Examples include written assignments, journal entries, completed tests, projects, videos, multi-media presentations, spreadsheets, websites, posters, photos or other digital artifacts of learning. Materials may be produced and maintained (either by the school or program or by individual students) in any physical or electronic form chosen by the school or program. *The “products” are determined by consultation with and approved by the faculty advisor and the site preceptor.*

The materials may originate from multiple experiences (e.g., applied community-based courses and service-learning courses throughout the curriculum) or a single, intensive experience (e.g., an internship requiring a significant time commitment with one site). While students may complete experiences as individuals or as groups in a structured experience, each student must present documentation demonstrating individual competency attainment. Combined degree students have opportunities to integrate and apply their learning from both degree programs through applied practice experiences. The school or program structures applied practice experience requirements to support its mission and students’ career goals, to the extent possible.

**Completion of the OSU CPH Competency-Based Rubric for the *D.5 Applied Practice Experience*:**



CEPH Template D.5-1	D.5. MPH Applied Practice Experiences
<b>Practice-based products that demonstrate MPH competency achievement:</b> <insert Specialization>	
<b>Specific assignment(s) that demonstrate application or practice</b>	<b>MPH Competency as defined in Criteria D.2. and D.4.*</b>
	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
	5.
<b>* Each student must demonstrate attainment of at least five competencies, of which at least three must be MPH Foundational Competencies (as defined in Criterion D.2.).</b>	