MPH students are required to complete a 200-hour practicum that allows for the application of classroom content to activities in a practice-based setting. Activities should be mutually beneficial to the host organization and the student. Starting Fall 2025, students are required to submit all practicum requirements through the SPH Practicum Portal at https://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/research-practice/mph-practicum.

Before arranging a practicum, students must meet with their advisor to verify that the practicum opportunity will meet school and department practicum requirements. Students must submit a practicum learning agreement approved by their faculty advisor and host organization preceptor prior to the start of their practicum.

Host Organization: Practicum experiences may involve:
- governmental
- non-governmental
- non-profit
- industrial
- for-profit settings
- appropriate university-affiliated settings that must be primarily focused on community engagement, typically with external partners. University health promotion or wellness centers may also be appropriate.

Faculty Advisor:
- Supervises practicum activities through regular meetings with the student and, as necessary, the preceptor
- Assists the student as they complete the practicum learning agreement
- Completes final practicum evaluation attesting to the attainment of competencies in work performed and required work products and submits practicum grade

Preceptor:
- Orients student to host organization
- Assists the student as they complete the practicum learning agreement
- Oversees the work of the student during the practicum
- Meets regularly with the student and, as necessary, the faculty advisor
- Completes midpoint (if required by department) and final preceptor evaluation form

Student:
- Works with their preceptor throughout the practicum to complete specific activities and products for the host organization as identified in the practicum learning agreement
- Keeps faculty advisor informed of changes, obstacles, and successes
- Completes midpoint (if required by department) and final student evaluation form
- Describes how competencies were attained through practicum activities and two non-scholarly work products that are beneficial to the host organization

Competencies: Practicum experiences allow each student to demonstrate attainment of at least five competencies, of which at least three must be CEPH MPH foundational competencies. The remaining competencies can be individual advanced competencies and/or additional CEPH MPH foundational competencies. Practicum experiences must be structured to ensure that all students complete experiences addressing at least five competencies, as specified above.

CEPH MPH Foundational Competencies

MPH 1	Apply epidemiological methods to settings and situations in public health practice
MPH 2	Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context
MPH 3	Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming, and software, as appropriate
MPH 4	Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice
MPH 5	Compare the organization, structure, and function of health care, public health, and regulatory systems across national and international settings
MPH 6	Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and systemic levels
MPH 7	Assess population needs, assets, and capacities that affect communities' health
MPH 8	Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design, implementation, or critique of public health policies or programs
MPH 9	Design a population-based policy, program, project, or intervention
MPH 10	Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management
MPH 11	Select methods to evaluate public health programs
MPH 12	Discuss the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence
MPH 13	Propose strategies to identify relevant communities and individuals and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes
MPH 14	Advocate for political, social, or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations
MPH 15	Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity
MPH 16	Apply leadership and/or management principles to address a relevant issue
MPH 17	Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges
MPH 18	Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors
MPH 19	Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation to a non-academic, non-peer audience with attention to factors such as literacy and health literacy
MPH 20	Describe the importance of cultural humility in communicating public health content
MPH 21	Integrate perspectives from other sectors and/or professions to promote and advance population health
MPH 22	Apply a systems thinking tool to visually represent a public health issue in a format other than standard narrative

Work Products: The program assesses each student's competency attainment through a portfolio approach, which reviews practical, applied work products that were produced for the site's use and benefit. Review of the student's performance in the practicum must be based on at least two practical, non-academic work products AND on validating that the work products demonstrate the student's attainment of the designated competencies.

Examples of Suitable Work Products:
- Project plans
- Grant proposals
- Training manuals
- Lesson plans
- Surveys
- Memos
- Videos

- Podcasts
- Presentations (non-academic, non-peer audience)
- Spreadsheets
- Websites
- Photos with explanatory text
- Other digital artifacts of learning

Unacceptable Work Products:
- Reflection papers
- Contact hour logs
- Scholarly papers
- Poster presentations
- Other documents/presentations required for academic purposes

Below is information that students must submit to the [SPH Practicum Portal](#) no later than 2 weeks after the start of the practicum experience.

- Student First Name
- Student Last Name
- Department
- Program
- Student's Pitt Email Address
- Cell Phone

- Program Director First Name
- Program Director Last Name
- Program Director's Pitt Email Address

- Host Organization Name
- Host Organization Address (street address, city, state, zip code, and country)

- Preceptor First Name
- Preceptor Last Name
- Preceptor's Title
- Preceptor's Email Address

- Approximate Start Date
- Approximate End Date
- End Term of Practicum
- Will completion of practicum take more than one semester?
- If you are in an SPH certificate program, does the practicum satisfy a certificate requirement?
- Practicum involves proprietary or confidential information?

- **Summary of Proposed Practicum Activities:** Briefly describe planned practicum activities.
- **Contribution**: Briefly describe how the practicum activities tie into a project or contribute to services that will benefit the host organization.
- **Public Health Relevance**: Briefly state how the project impacts populations.
- **Work Products**: Identify two practical, applied, non-academic work products that will be produced for the host organization's use and benefit. Title each work product and provide a brief description. More than two work products can be submitted but at least two are required.

Examples of suitable work products include project plans, grant proposals, training manuals or lesson plans, surveys, memos, videos, podcasts, presentations (non-academic, non-peer audience), spreadsheets, websites, photos (with accompanying explanatory text), or other digital artifacts of learning. Acceptable products can also include

*intermediate or less formal products produced for the benefit of the site such as a memo to a supervisor recommending a course of action or a proposed project budget. **Reflection papers, contact hour logs, scholarly papers prepared to allow faculty to assess the experience, poster presentations, and other documents required for academic purposes may not be counted toward the minimum of two work products.***