PH 623: Dual Degree Public Health Field Study (2 Units - 200 Hours)
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine/Master of Public Health (DO/MPH)

Overview

Students in the DO/MPH Dual Degree program are required to complete 30 credit hours of the PH curriculum and are allowed to transfer 12 units from the DO curriculum. In addition, these students receive an automatic 200-hour waiver for the Public Health Field Study reduced from 400 hours. The 2-unit/200-hour Dual Degree Public Health Field Study must be completed over a minimum period of 6 consecutive weeks.

DO/MPH students are advised to begin considering the planning and scheduling of the Public Health Field Study no later than the Fall Semester of Y2 by observing the Community Health & Global Health Field Study Timeline & Deadlines (available online at http://cehs.tu.edu/publichealth/culminatingexperience/phfieldstudy.html).

Scheduling the Dual Degree Public Health Field Study

The College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) and College of Education and Health Sciences Public Health Program recommend that DO/MPH students conduct the Dual Degree Public Health Field Study in the Spring Semester of Year 4 (Y4). Please note: Although some DO/MPH students may find it possible to conduct the Field Study during Y3, it has been recommended that DO/MPH students complete the Field Study during the latter half of Y4 (January to May) when their schedules are more flexible and open. Upon selecting their research rotation elective dates with the COM Clinical Education Department in the Spring Semester of Y3, DO/MPH OMS III students are advised to complete the following steps:

1. With the assistance of the COM Clinical Education Department, schedule a 6-week open period to occur during the spring semester of Y4 that is designated for completion of the Dual Degree Public Health Field Study and satisfies the DO program research elective rotation. This option must meet all of the MPH field study requirements and be approved by the DO Clinical Education Department. IMPORTANT: All field study placements must occur during the start and end dates of the Public Health Program semesters. Please make sure to select elective rotations accordingly. Students are not allowed to conduct the Public Health Field Study near the end of a semester or during a break between two semesters when classes are not in session.
2. **Community Health Track students** review appropriate sites and opportunities based on their skills set, public health interests (see the TUC network of Community Health Field Study Placement Sites (see pp. 26-28 in the appendix of this handbook or download at [http://cehs.tu.edu/publichealth/_resources/mphwebfiles/Network_CHTSites.pdf](http://cehs.tu.edu/publichealth/_resources/mphwebfiles/Network_CHTSites.pdf)).

3. **Global Health students** review the Global Health Field Study Overview at [http://cehs.tu.edu/publichealth/culminatingexperience/phfieldstudy.html](http://cehs.tu.edu/publichealth/culminatingexperience/phfieldstudy.html) for information on the Public Health Program’s Global Health field study sites in Bolivia, Cambodia, and Ethiopia, various options for the global health field study, travel dates, types of projects are available at the different sites, and approximate costs (flights, room/board, etc.)

4. **By the specified deadlines,** complete the Field Study Planning Form online at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FS_planning_form](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FS_planning_form). By submitting the Field Study Planning Form, students select Community Health or Global Health placement sites, indicate the number of hours required for their field study, specify time frames required for their field study, the number of hours they can devote to a field study, and their public health interests.

   - Community Health Track students are required to rank their site preferences specific to their public health interests, qualifications, and geographic location preference (within the TUC Network of Community Health/SF Bay Area). **IMPORTANT:** As field study placement sites are limited, placements at preferred sites cannot be guaranteed; therefore, students may not be assigned to their top-ranked site.

   - Global Health Track students must also contact the field study coordinator who manages their preferred field study site:

     - **Bolivia:** Professor Sarah Sullivan ([sarah.sullivan@tu.edu](mailto:sarah.sullivan@tu.edu))
     - **Cambodia & Ethiopia:** Dr. Carinne Brody ([carinne.brody@tu.edu](mailto:carinne.brody@tu.edu))

5. Upon submitting the Field Study Planning Form, **email a C.V. or resume, and a signed Student Code of Conduct** (download at [http://cehs.tu.edu/publichealth/_resources/mphwebfiles/StudentCodeofConduct_PH600_623.pdf](http://cehs.tu.edu/publichealth/_resources/mphwebfiles/StudentCodeofConduct_PH600_623.pdf)) to nemesia.kelly@tu.edu.

6. **Contact Public Health Program Field Study Coordinator, Nemesia Kelly,** online at [http://mph.checkappointments.com](http://mph.checkappointments.com) to schedule an appointment to discuss the Public Health Field Study course and to submit a DO/MPH Dual Degree Field Study Approval Form (see below on p. 5).

7. **Enroll in the PH 623 Field Study** (2 units) course and DO research elective course concurrently for the term/year of the planned field study/research. The field study is carried out as an exclusive MPH course managed by the MPH program and independent of the College of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) Program. Please also refer to the Public Health Field Study Student Handbook at

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8. **Look out for email and web announcements** regarding events specifically addressing the Dual Degree Field Study.

**Public Health Field Study Placement Sites**

**Community Health Track:** Community Health Track students are required to complete a local field study within the TUC network of community health field study placement sites, which include, but are not limited to: county health departments, state and federal health agencies, community health organizations, hospitals, clinics, managed care organizations, academic institutions, philanthropic and voluntary health agencies, and non-profit organizations. For a listing of TUC Network of Community Health Field Study Placement Sites, please visit http://cehs.tu.edu/publichealth/_resources/mphwebfiles/Network_CHTSites.pdf.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT FIELD STUDY SITE AGENCY ORIENTATION REQUIREMENTS:** All affiliated county health departments, governmental health agencies, hospitals, community health clinics, and managed care organizations require students to fulfill agency orientation requirements which include, agency paperwork, health and immunization documentation, security scans/background check, and drug testing prior to beginning their field studies. Typically, this entire process can take up to (1) month for students to complete. At some agencies, the process can take longer. For example, to obtain clearance through the Live Scan Fingerprinting process at Solano County can take up to two (2) months. Therefore, it is important that the students take the necessary steps to satisfy these preliminary orientation requirements well before the start date of their field studies.

**Student-Initiated Community Health Field Study Sites:** By taking initiative to independently seek out alternative Community Health field study opportunities outside the existing TUC network of Community Health placement sites, interested and motivated students have helped the Program establish new Community Health placement sites over the last few years. Students have aided the Program in identifying appropriate public health practice settings for MPH students at several prospective placement sites within our surrounding communities, the SF Bay Area, in other parts of California, and in a few neighboring western U.S. states. These student-initiated sites were subsequently approved by the Program, resulting in the expansion of our current network of Community Health field study placement sites.

The Program continues to encourage students to independently seek out Community Health field study placement sites outside our existing network that provide appropriate public health practice settings for MPH students. **For a script template for contacting prospective sites, please refer to the appendix in the Public Health Field Study Student Handbook on pp. 29-30.** Please note: Any student-initiated field study placement outside the existing TUC network of Community Health field study placement sites must be approved by the Program in order for the student to receive credit. The prospective agency or organization must meet the Program’s criteria in order to be approved as a field study site. Further, TUC and the Public Health Program must also meet the criteria of the agency or organization to be approved for affiliation, partnership, and collaboration.

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Students who identify potential public health practice entities as prospective Community Health field study sites are advised to direct those potential sites to our online Guide for Agencies to Qualify as Approved Field Study Placement Sites at http://cehs.tu.edu/publichealth/_resources/mphwebfiles/Guidelines_FieldStudySites_Preceptors2.pdf. In addition, in order for the Program to conduct a timely review and approval process for authorizing a student-initiated site, the proposed site must register online as new field study site at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=JlKhRyhticaDPhi_2fTKdGew_3d_3d by our specified deadlines (refer to the 2013-2014 Community Health Track Field Study Timeline and Deadlines at http://cehs.tu.edu/publichealth/_resources/mphwebfiles/2013-14.CH.FieldStudy.Timeline-Deadlines.pdf).

**IMPORTANT:** The Public Health Program cannot guarantee community health field study placements outside the SF Bay Area. Students who are interested in conducting their field studies outside of the SF Bay area are encouraged to independently seek out an appropriate public health field study placement in their preferred location. The Field Study Coordinator can offer limited assistance in setting up community health field study placements outside of the SF Bay Area. Moreover, any field study placement outside the existing TUC Network must be approved by the Program in order for the student to receive credit.

**Global Health Track:** Global Health Track students conduct their field studies at sites in Bolivia, Cambodia, and Ethiopia under the guidance of site preceptors and course coordinators at public health institutions, universities, ministries of health, non-governmental organizations, and United Nations agencies. Detailed information regarding the Global Health Field Study is available online at http://cehs.tu.edu/publichealth/culminatingexperience/phfieldstudy.html.

**The Matching Process for Community Health Track Students**

All field study placements are coordinated and approved by the Field Study Coordinator. The Field Study Coordinator will work to facilitate the placement process by matching the student’s public health interests, qualifications, and geographic location preference (within the TUC Network/SF Bay Area). Once a match has been made, an official field study placement recommendation letter is emailed to the student and preceptor. The official recommendation letter and email communication to the student will clearly state that it is the responsibility of the student to contact the site preceptor or coordinator to finalize their placement. In some cases, students may be required to interview with the site preceptor or coordinator to secure their field study placement.

**IMPORTANT:** Many placement sites require a security scan or drug testing. Students will be advised to ensure that all preliminary requirements are satisfied well before the start date of their placement.

*Please refer to the Public Health Field Study webpage and Public Health Field Study Student Handbook at [http://cehs.tu.edu/publichealth/culminatingexperience/phfieldstudy.html](http://cehs.tu.edu/publichealth/culminatingexperience/phfieldstudy.html) for more detailed information on PH 623, including the course overview and format, objectives, policies, and requirements.*

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DO/MPH Dual Degree Field Study Approval Form

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<td>Rotation Elective Type:</td>
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<td>Specify Dates of Research Elective Rotation:</td>
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<td>Proposed Placement (If applicable):</td>
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<td>Preceptor Name &amp; Credentials (If applicable): (PhD, MPH, DO)</td>
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<td>Preceptor Phone:</td>
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<td>Preceptor Email Address:</td>
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<td>Preceptor Address:</td>
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<td>Proposed Project (Describe the main objectives of this placement in 2-3 sentences):</td>
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Approved

Public Health Program Field Study Coordinator

Signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________

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