MPH Field Study Overview

Touro University-CA
College of Health Sciences
What is the PH Field Study?

- A structured and practical supervised professional experience in an approved public health setting allowing for the application and integration of the skills and knowledge acquired during their graduate didactic coursework.

- As a working partnership between students and public health agencies, the field training experience offers students a rotation through an area of public health practice locally in a county, state, federal or community based agency or abroad.
PH 600 and PH 623

- PH 600 - Independent MPH students complete a 400-hour fieldwork experience.
- PH 623 - Joint MSPAS/MPH, DO/MPH, and PharmD/MPH students are eligible for a partial waiver and must complete 200-hours of fieldwork experience.
Goal

- To further students’ practical experience while enhancing the work of public health. Students will demonstrate an integration of coursework in a practical setting, to prepare for a professional career in public health.
Learning Objectives

Through the field study, MPH students will be able to:

1. Integrate public health theory, knowledge and skills in a practice setting;

2. Engage in a defined project(s) in an area of public health practice including functions such as:

   - needs assessment
   - program evaluation
   - policy development/analysis
   - educational campaign / health education
   - data collection, data analysis
   - applied research project
Learning Objectives con’t.

3. Exhibit proficiency in at least one of the following areas: program planning, needs assessment and data gathering, program implementation, applied research, program evaluation, policy analysis, or data analysis.

4. Demonstrate competence in a public health practice setting; and

5. Demonstrate leadership, teamwork, communication skills, and creativity
Field Study Examples

- Developing, implementing and or evaluating health promotion programs for specific population(s);
- Conducting research on a public health issue of interest (e.g. study and instrument design, data collection, data entry, analysis, and assessment of findings);
- Conducting policy analysis or advocacy related to a public health issue;
- Conducting a community needs assessment;
Field Study Examples

don’t

- Developing, pre-testing and evaluation of curriculum and/or health education materials;
- Contributing to the development of grant proposals;
- Communicating health education needs and information to policy makers and the public.
Contribution to the Field

- The students' work in the field study projects should be valued by the organization and make a contribution to meeting the organization's goals or mission.
- Projects must address a community health issue and student participation should contribute to strategic resolutions.
The Capstone paper will primarily be worked on following the field experience and is not expected to be completed during the placement.
Agency/Organization Requirements for Site Selection:

- Provide public health related planning, research and/or services;
- Have one or more staff on site with a graduate credential in public health or equivalent professional experience and education who will serve as a designated preceptor;
- Offer opportunities for the student to be exposed to a variety of organizational departments, individuals, functions and/or tasks;
- Offer responsibilities to the student that are relevant and appropriate to the student’s field study learning goals and professional development;
- Provide necessary access to data and program materials for students to conduct their projects.
Agency/Organization
Requirements for Site Selection:

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■ Have adequate organizational support for the student to successfully complete field study activities;

■ Provide direct and regular supervision for students throughout the placement;

■ Provide students a minimum of 200/400 hours of public health field work experience;

■ Provide student an opportunity to apply one core, 10 cross-cutting and three public health track competencies; and

■ Provide a completed Organizational Registration form that documents contact information and details of the site, project, learning opportunities and required skills for the field study.
Selecting Your Site

1. **PH Program facilitates match** through existing the TU-C PH organizational network.

   A. Students are directed to appropriate sites and opportunities depending on their stated skills inventory and interests.

   B. Students identify placements they are interested in and for which they are qualified. They then interview competitively for these positions.
Selecting Your Site

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2. **Student identification**-
   - A. Must be approved by the Field Study Coordinator.
   - B. Placement request must be submitted 6 weeks prior to field study start date.
Required Deliverables

- **Scope of Work and Competency Inventory.**

- **Contract.** An agreement for the student to work and complete agreed upon objectives and competencies as negotiated between the student and preceptor.

- **Field Study Logs.** Documentation of significant activities and progress toward reaching identified objectives as they relate to the specified competencies and other material covered in Public Health Courses, detailed on a daily basis.

- **Summary Paper.** Written documentation of the field study experience, demonstrating the application and integration of skills and knowledge acquired through the didactic and practical components of the PH Program.

- **Site Visit.** During the course of the field study, a site visit from the Program will take place. The Program will contact the student to arrange this visit. The student will be responsible for assisting with scheduling the visit, which should include a meeting with the site preceptor or supervisor.