Practicum Guidelines and Preceptor Information

All students in the GSU School of Public Health are required to complete a practicum experience as part of their academic degree requirements. The main objective is to provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate competencies from their concentration coursework to community-based research and service in a practice setting.

Students begin looking for a practicum 3-6 months prior to their desired start date and pursue their experience in Spring, Summer, and Fall semesters.

Opportunities are shared in weekly emails, but students are encouraged to network to locate potential practicums.

**Students** are responsible for identifying potential practicum sites based on their public health concentration, career interests, and goals. Students should also work to identify a preceptor with an organization that they would like to work with.

**Ideal practicum sites are those that offer:**
- Field experiences that are commensurate with the MPH concentrations (Biostatistics, Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Health Promotion and Behavior, and Health Management and Policy)
- Well-defined activities that enable students to apply academic theory in practical situations
- Engagement of experienced preceptors or practicum supervisors
- A work environment, including work space, conducive to successful performance

**Effective preceptors are those who:**
- Have experience in public health, health care or a related discipline
- Are engaged in work that fulfills the requirements of the practicum
- Are able to spend time with the student and provide periodic feedback, guidance, and advice to the through formal evaluations and meetings

### Next Steps

- If you have a project or program you think could serve as a practicum, contact Jessica Pratt at jpratt@gsu.edu with project details and preferred qualifications and skills
- A practicum can consist of a major project or a series of smaller related projects
- Practicum sites must enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) concerning affiliation of students for applied learning experience, to be kept on file on-campus
- Practicum sites and preceptors must provide periodic feedback to the MPH program through a formal midpoint and final evaluation
- Students are expected to complete between 240-300 hours of practicum work, which they are responsible for tracking
- Forms with additional practicum information can be found online at http://publichealth.gsu.edu/students/practicum/practicum-forms/