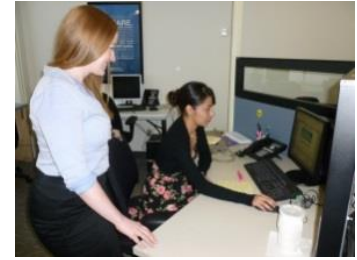


University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) School of Public Health

The UIC School of Public Health is dedicated to excellence in protecting and improving the health and well-being of the people of the metropolitan Chicago area, the state of Illinois, the nation, and of others throughout the globe. The School of Public Health is the only accredited school of public health in the state of Illinois, offering degree, certificate, and non-degree continuing education programs.



The school is organized into four academic divisions for graduate students: 1) Community Health Sciences; 2) Epidemiology and Biostatistics; 3) Health Policy and Administration; and 4) Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. The UIC SPH offers educational programs leading to the following degrees: Bachelor of Arts in Public Health (BA); Master of Public Health (MPH); Master of Science (MS); Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA); Doctor of Philosophy (PhD); and Doctor of Public Health (DrPH).

Applied Practice (AP) Experience

An applied practice experience is required of all MPH students. The purpose is for students to acquire experience and develop skills in the application of basic public health concepts and of specialty knowledge to the solution of public health problems. Graduate students are required to complete 192-320 hours on site. The schedule is determined between the preceptor and student.

AP Experience Competencies

The AP Experience allows each student to demonstrate attainment of at least five competencies, of which at least three must be foundational competencies. Students must also select at least one competency from their division and/or concentration(s). Attainment of these competencies is evaluated at the end of the applied practice experience.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Preceptor

Those supervising students throughout their applied practice experience should have the appropriate qualifications. (A secondary preceptor is allowed if necessary.) In order to meet the needs of MPH students, field preceptors should have an advanced degree in public health, are at a mid-management level or higher, and have at least three years of experience in the field. Individuals who work in public health and have a related graduate degree and/or the equivalent in terms of public health experience may also be appropriate preceptors. The preceptor is asked to:

- Assist student in completing the AP Experience Learning Agreement that outlines student activities, deliverables, and competencies.
- Assist student in identifying at least two deliverables that can be submitted to UIC SPH at the end of the applied practice experience that demonstrates competency attainment.
- Orient the student to the agency by providing, or arranging for, orientation regarding agency mission, policies, programs, procedures, and personnel.

Applied Practice Experience Site Selection

The applied practice experience must provide students with an opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills gained in their course of study in a real world setting under the supervision of a qualified preceptor. Would your site be a good fit?

- Does your organization have a public health improvement project from which a student can learn?
- Are you a public health practitioner who is committed to mentoring the next generation of public health leaders?
- Do you have time to oversee the project?
- Do you have time on a regular basis to share your public health knowledge and engage in reflective dialogue?
- Are you willing to provide the student exposure to the interworkings of your organization and the partners with whom you work?
- Can you provide regular supervision and mentorship of the student?

- Ensure the student has the resources and equipment to be successful in the placement setting, such as access to a desk and/or computer as well as other resources necessary for the completion of assigned tasks.
- Provide students with the opportunity to gain a broad perspective on the public health work of the agency as well as exposure to and more in-depth involvement with a specific project.
- Meet with the student on a regular basis to provide feedback and supervision. (Responsibility for specific task supervision may be delegated to another professional staff member as long as the preceptor maintains oversight and continues to meet with the student regularly.)
- Communicate with the UIC SPH Applied Practice Advisor should problems or issues arise with student performance or if the agency is unable to meet the needs of the student.
- Complete “Preceptor’s Evaluation.”
- Meet with the student to review “Preceptor’s Evaluation” at the conclusion of the applied practice experience.

Sample Applied Practice Experiences

- **Community Health Sciences**
 - Assisted auditors with ensuring a state public health agency complied with Title X requirements.
 - Identified the mental health needs of Laotian immigrant and refugee women in the Fox Valley Region, and developed recommendations and health education materials.
- **Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences**
 - Assisted Program Director with permit reviews and comment letters to ensure water quality of the Great Lakes.
 - Conducted research as part of a nongovernmental organization’s public health project to address Thai migrant workers’ exposure to pesticides.
- **Epidemiology and Biostatistics**
 - Developed a risk assessment for the onset of *Clostridium difficile* infection in post-surgical patients.
 - Conducted a cross-sectional study on the behavioral and social determinants correlated with HIV/AIDS prevalence among female sex workers in rural settings in India.
- **Health Policy and Administration**
 - Participated in producing key policy materials for a state public health agency.
 - Conducted an evaluation of an international tobacco control policy.



Next Steps

To inquire about administrative and placement policies, please contact:

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