MPH Practicum FAQs

Fall 2018

1. **How many practicum hours do MPH students complete?**
   a. 360

2. **Can MPH students split their practicum hours between two sites?**
   a. No, unless there are extenuating circumstances (field instructor leaves, or there is an agreement between two organizations to share the student’s time).

3. **When can MPH students do practicum?**
   a. MPH students must wait until after they complete their foundation MPH coursework, which is typically after their 2nd semester in the program (starting in their first summer). There are a couple of exceptions:
      i. If a student is in the MD/MPH joint degree program, they may begin in the spring semester of their first year
      ii. If a student is applying for the Jefferson City legislative practicum opportunity, they may do so during the spring semester of their first year

4. **Can MPH students do out-of-state or international practicum?**
   a. Out-of-state: Yes, following the same application process as MSW students. They would follow the deadlines to apply for summer out-of-state practicum.
      i. Many out-of-state opportunities for MPH students also require organization-specific applications and have their own deadlines, so it is important to advise students to begin researching these opportunities in the fall semester.
   b. International: Yes, if the student is in the Global Health specialization and completes the required global coursework prior to departing.
      i. Students follow the same application process through the Global Programs Office, applying by the November 15th deadline for the following summer.

5. **What are the MPH Specializations?**
   a. Generalist – this is now considered a specialization, and students have to choose specific competencies to address in practicum from the other specialization competencies.
   b. Global Health
   c. Health Policy Analysis
   d. Epidemiology/Biostatistics
   e. Urban Design

6. **If a student is interested in applying to a large NGO, the CDC, NIH, or other national organization:**
   a. Encourage them to look at the organization’s specific internship opportunities, process, and deadlines
b. They must make sure that the organization has opportunities that are over the summer, are graduate-level, provide 360 hours of experience, and are supervised by a master’s-level professional.

c. They must follow the steps to affiliate that organization (typically by applying for out-of-state practicum and working with the MPH Program Coordinator or Manager.

d. Encourage them to apply to a variety of opportunities, including some local options, as these internships tend to be very competitive and it is helpful to have some backup options.

7. Are there any additional requirements for MPH practicum that do not apply to MSW practicum?
   a. **Epidemiology/Biostatistics supervision:** All epi/biostats practicum must be supervised by someone with an MPH and/or specific training in epidemiology and/or biostatistics.
   b. **University-based sites:** Students placed in university settings must have opportunities to engage with stakeholders and community outside of the university setting. Opportunities that are solely research focused without interaction with participants or stakeholders are not eligible for practicum.
   c. **Specialization approval:** All new specialization sites (including generalist) must go through an approval process in addition to the affiliation process. Students must apply using the [MPH Practicum Specialization Form](#) found on Inside Brown at least 30 days prior to beginning practicum.
   d. **Portfolio Products:** All MPH students entering in fall 2018 and after must complete 2 portfolio products during their practicum.
      i. These should be products that are mutually beneficial to the organization and the student. These should be determined by the student and the field instructor early on in the practicum.
      ii. Examples include, but are not limited to: written assignments, projects, videos, multi-media presentations, spreadsheets, websites, posters, policy briefs, publications, photos, or other digital artifacts of learning.