**Potential Preceptors for Department of Epidemiology and Department of Biostatistics Practicum and Culminating Experience Courses**

Thank you for agreeing to work with our George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health students seeking to complete their Master of Public Health practice requirement, the Practicum. The **Practicum** consists of a Practice Activity - defined as a planned, supervised, and evaluated experience in a public health organization. The Practice Activity, which should take a minimum of 120 hours, can consist of either a primary research or surveillance project including data collection and analysis, or a secondary analysis of an existing database, among other activities.

As a Practicum Preceptor, you have chosen a project or set of tasks in your field of expertise for students to work on. You will be supervising their work and guiding them with respect to the practical application of epidemiologic methods in your field. There are five products for the Practicum: the students’ Practicum Plan, the time log, two evaluations that Preceptors and students review and fill out, and two work products that demonstrate attainment of the competencies that the Preceptor and Student identify as part of the Practicum Plan. For more information about the Practicum, please visit our GW SPHHS Practicum Application at [publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/practicum](https://publichealth.gwu.edu/academics/practicum).

The student you are working with may approach you about the feasibility of expanding the Practicum into a Culminating Experience. The **Culminating Experience (CE)** is a 2-credit graded course which consists of the following four products that stem from research and practice involving a specific public health issue: (a) Concept Paper, (b) Proposal, (c) Final Report or Manuscript, and (d) Oral Presentations (at site and final presentation at GW SPH). The CE serves to integrate the application of epidemiologic methods and the interpretation of results. Although it is not mandatory, students often link the CE with the Practicum. If you decide to work with a student on the CE, you will supervise their work, with the assistance of a Department of Epi Faculty Advisor, to complete the four required products.

For more information on the specific Department of Epidemiology and Department of Biostatistics requirements for the Practicum and Culminating Experience, you can also go to publichealth.gwu.edu/departments/epidemiology-and-biostatistics/practice-experience and view our departmental Practicum and Culminating Experience Resource Page, which contains descriptions of the Practicum and Culminating Experience (CE), course syllabi, frequently asked questions, and other resources.

If you would like more information about the Practicum and/or the CE, or need to talk to your student’s Practicum Director for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Practicum Co-Directors:

Vivi Alves de Sa, MS Joseph Schmitthenner, MS Stephanie Lee, MPA, MA

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**Joseph Schmitthenner advises Epi students with last names A – M; Vivi Alves de Sa advises Epi students with last names N-Z. Stephanie Lee advises all Biostatistics and Bioinformatics students.** Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns.