Potential Preceptors for Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics Field/Laboratory Experience Course

Thank you for considering working with our George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services (GW SPHHS) students seeking to complete their Master of Science in Public Health Microbiology and Emerging Infectious Diseases (MS PHMEID) practice requirement, the Field/Laboratory Experience (FLE). The FLE is a 2-credit, course which serves to provide supervised practical experience to reinforce the classroom and laboratory work in their academic program. The FLE, which should take a minimum of 120 hours, generally takes place in one of the following areas:

- Infectious disease research,
- Public health laboratories, or
- Qualifying public health entities (local, state or federal public health department, multilateral health organization, private contractor, etc.) to introduce them to epidemiologic research, particularly, surveillance and its tie-in with laboratories either in the United States or in an international setting.

Students choosing a laboratory-focused experience should gain concrete experiences in key laboratory functions. This includes but is not limited to gaining experience in specimen collection, use of test kits, specimen storage and transport, chain of custody procedures, specimen processing in the laboratory, Good Laboratory Practices, general quality control issues, use of basic lab instrumentation, issues of biosafety, and exposure to one or more key laboratory test methods.

Students seeking a more epidemiology-focused experience will carry out the field placement in contexts where they should be exposed to epidemiologic research, surveillance, and the relationship between the laboratory and public health epidemiology.

As a potential FLE 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 and/or laboratory methods in your field. There are four products for the Field/Laboratory Experience: the student’s proposal/contract, time log, final report, and the evaluations Preceptors and students review and complete at the end of the course.

For more information on the Field/Laboratory Experience requirements, you can view our departmental MS PHMEID Field/Laboratory Experience Resource Page, http://sphhs.gwu.edu/departments/epidemiology-and-biostatistics/practice-experience-ms-phmeid, which contains descriptions of the FLE, course syllabi, frequently asked questions, and other resources.

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

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Dr. Castel advises students with last names A – G; Professor Goldman advises students with last names H-Z.