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

Thank you for agreeing to work with our George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services (GW SPHHS) students seeking to complete their Master of Public Health practice requirement, the Practicum. The Practicum is a 2-credit, credit/no credit course which 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 either of a primary research or surveillance project including data collection and analysis, or a secondary analysis of an existing data base.

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 three products for the Practicum, the students’ Practicum plan, the time log, and the evaluations Preceptors and students review and fill out. For more information about the Practicum, please visit our GW SPHHS Practicum Application at http://sphhs.gwu.edu/academics/practicum. Site Preceptor responsibilities and instructions on how to access and work with the SPHHS Practicum Application, are outlined in the Site Preceptor Practicum Guidebook at http://sphhs.gwu.edu/pdf/SP%20Guidebook.pdf. Once you are ready to register as a Practicum Preceptor, please complete the Preceptor registration form at http://sphhs.gwu.edu/practicum/practicumApp/applicationPre.cfm

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 Presentation. 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 DEB Faculty Advisor, to complete the four required products.

For more information on the specific Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics requirements for the Practicum and Culminating Experience, you can also go to http://sphhs.gwu.edu/departments/epidemiology-and-biostatistics/practice-experience to 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:

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Dr. Castel advises students with last names A – G; Professor Goldman advises students with last names H-Z. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns.