Terminology

**Practicum:** Students form a partnership with an approved public health organization to complete a minimum of 120 hours and support the solution of a public health problem that benefits the organization and demonstrates the student’s attainment of the required competencies. Used for students who matriculated prior to Fall 2019.

**APEX:** Students form a partnership with an approved public health organization to complete a minimum of 120 hours and produce at least 2 work products that benefit the organization and demonstrate the student’s attainment of the required competencies. Used for students who matriculated in Fall 2019 or later.

Course Description

The **Practicum** course, PUBH 6014, is a **2-credit requirement** during which the student works a minimum of **120 hours** in an appropriate global health-related organization; the **APEX** is a requirement for PUBH 6022, a **1-credit course**, and requires students to work a minimum of 120 hours in an appropriate global health-related organization and produce at least 2 work products, **students will only receive a grade of credit for 6022 once they complete their field experience.** The student’s matriculation date will determine if they need to register for PUBH 6014 or PUBH 6022. The Practicum/APEX is intended to provide students with an opportunity to synthesize, integrate, and apply practical skills, knowledge, and training learned in their MPH courses; in order to gain professional experience in a public health work environment, and to work on public health practice projects that are of particular interest students work under the supervision of an approved site preceptor.

It is structured as a three-way partnership between the student, Milken Institute SPH, and a sponsoring agency/organization and each Practicum/APEX must be **pre-approved**,
planned, supervised and evaluated in order for a student to receive credit. Student plans are
guided by a set of course competencies outlined below. For those who are new to the field of
public health, the Practicum/APEX serves as an important first step in a public health career,
providing an introduction to the practical skills and experience necessary for a productive and
fulfilling career. For students who have had prior work experience, the Practicum/APEX provides
the opportunity to hone skills or to gain new experience in a different area of specialization.

The Practicum/APEX may be done in conjunction with the Culminating Experience
(PubH 6015.14) in which the knowledge gained through both experiences are integrated to
produce a final product. Students planning to combine their Practicum/APEX and Culminating
Experience must have their proposals pre-approved by both the Practicum Director and their
Faculty Advisor.

During the Practicum/APEX, students will be required to use the GWorks web portal on a regular
basis. All of the required Practicum/APEX forms (e.g. Practicum Plan) will be available and must
be entered on this site. Specific departmental materials will be available on the Source.

***All students completing an international Practicum/APEX must comply with the
University’s International Travel Approval Policy, by completing the necessary
application and approval forms and receiving approval for travel before they are able to
take part in their Practicum/APEX. This process adds additional months to the
Practicum/APEX approval process.***

Course Registration

• **PUBH 6014**: Students who matriculated prior to Fall 2019 will work with the Practicum
team to submit an RTF to manually enroll in PUBH 6014.xx and will receive credit for the
practicum through this course.

• **PUBH 6022**: Students who matriculated in Fall 2019 or after, enroll in PUBH 6022,
develop an APEX plan and receive credit for this course only after completing their 120
APEX hours. Until the students 120 hours are complete, the course grade will be
Incomplete (I).

  o PUBH 6022 is both a prerequisite or a co-requisite for the APEX.

Course Prerequisites

• Complete all program specific course prerequisites before starting the Practicum/APEX
(below)

• In addition to completing PUBH 6416, Global Health students must complete an
additional cross-cultural competency course prior to beginning the Practicum/APEX. This
requirement can be met by:

  o enrolling in PUBH 6417,
- enrolling in a department cross-cultural workshop,
- or submitting a waiver request to the Practicum Team based on previous academic or lived experience i.e. Peace Corps Volunteer, international student, previous job history, courses taken during degree programs etc.

- Those students who matriculated after Fall 2019, complete PUBH 6021 &/or 6022
- Complete the required online CITI training (Social and Behavioral Research Module)
- Obtain Student Project Oversight Approval from the SPH Office of Research Excellence
- The Practicum/APEx must be pre-approved first by the DGH Practicum Team

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**Department of Global Health Practicum/APEx Prerequisites**

In addition to the school-wide Practicum/APEx prerequisites (PUBH 6021 & 6022), students in Global Health MPH Programs are required to take the following courses before completing their Practicum/APEx. Note that PUBH 6002, 6003, 6400 and 6416 are required for all Global Health Programs. The additional program-specific practicum/APEx prerequisites are the foundational required courses for each program. These prerequisites are set to ensure that students have the necessary skills to be successful in their practicum/APEx.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Course prerequisites</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global Health Epidemiology and Disease Control</td>
<td>PUBH 6002, 6003, 6400, 6416, 6247, 6853 [previously 6249]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Health Policy</td>
<td>PUBH 6002, 6003, 6012, 6400, 6412, 6416, 6417</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Health Program Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation</td>
<td>PUBH 6002, 6003, 6400, 6412, 6416, 6435, 6501</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanitarian Health</td>
<td>PUBH 6002, 6003, 6400, 6416, 6480</td>
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*These prerequisites apply to students who matriculated in fall 2019 or later. Students who matriculated prior to fall 2019 should contact their program director for information on their practicum/APEx prerequisites*

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**Course Learning Objectives**

1. Mobilize technical expertise and socio-cultural awareness and utilize knowledge of communication skills to develop and administer strategies in global public health.
2. Navigate institutions and mechanisms through which global health policies and programs are designed and implemented.
3. Apply conceptual frameworks and knowledge of global health patterns, determinants and disparities in support of global health research.
4. Apply qualitative and quantitative methods to policy and programmatic research in the global context.
5. Apply conceptual frameworks and knowledge of global health patterns, determinants and disparities in support of global health policy, promotion or prevention.
Course Competencies

CEPH MPH Foundational Competencies (at least 3 of the following must be applied in a student’s plan)

1. Apply multi-disciplinary perspectives to identify, analyze and address global health challenges.
2. Distinguish between qualitative and quantitative methods and select the appropriate method depending on the specific research or programmatic need.
3. Interpret and critique research and best practices to inform the development of evidence-based solutions for global health challenges.
4. Communicate public health evidence on global health topics to a variety of audiences, such as technical experts, policymakers, lay audiences, and other relevant stakeholders.
5. Identify and address the ethical issues of global health programs, policies and research.
6. Engage with diverse individuals, organizations, and communities with respect for different values, beliefs and practices.
7. Explain multilevel determinants of problems in Global Health and the basis for strategies and interventions.
8. Describe the governance and institutional landscape of global health.
9. Demonstrate professionalism in practice, research and in communication activities.

Department Specific Competencies (at least 2 of the following must be applied in a student’s plan [1 for student’s in PUBH 6014])

10. Identify frameworks for the design of culturally acceptable and contextually feasible global health interventions and evaluations.
11. Describe and assess the inter-relationship between the protection, health promotion, and human rights and population outcomes in global health.
12. Apply research, leadership, and communication skills to support the design, implementation, evidence and policy cycle.
13. Understand and apply leadership and management skills to support implementation of humanitarian operations and policy changes at international level.
14. Utilize epidemiological data, program theory, programmatic evidence, and health systems and policy contextual information for the design of effective global health interventions and programs, as well as their monitoring and evaluation.
15. Compare and select data analysis, monitoring frameworks and evaluation methods according to specified purposes for each and interpret the results.
16. Describe and understand current issues on the global trends in the distribution and determinants of the main communicable, non-communicable, nutritional and injuries at the population and different geographic and social and political contexts.

17. Describe various context-specific designs and capacity assessment of health systems, analyze major multi-institutional and multi-sectoral initiatives and partnerships affecting their performance in global health, to make recommendations on capacity strengthening from an organizational, workforce and financial perspective.

18. Understand and apply the principles of rigorous researching and critical appraisal of publications and evidence, and writing and presenting the findings of research projects.

19. Describe and address current main communicable, non-communicable, and other pathologies across the populations, geographic locations, and social and political contexts in Global Health.

20. Analyze and design within context-specific health policy making process, implementation strategies and health interventions, supported in policy analytics, cultural and equity sensitivity and inter-cultural management.

21. Assess the historical and ongoing development of international health regulations and intellectual property rights and how they could be addressed through national and international policies. Understand the building of partnerships in global public health, and the specific context-specific cultural and potential conflict of interest. Understand the role of international rights, partnership in controlling a major epidemic or health emergency.

22. Describe the global economic trends and challenges faced by low and middle-income countries, and the within country disparities and inequities, regarding health status of their populations and health care delivery options and how different policy approaches can be used to address these challenges.

Methods of Evaluation
Credit/No Credit will be recommended by the Final Site Preceptor Evaluation of the Student. The Practicum Director will review all materials to determine and submit the final grade.

Grading Scale and Standards
PUBH 6014: The Practicum course is graded as Credit (CR) or No Credit (NR).

PUBH 6022: The Essentials of Public Health Practice and Leadership II course is graded as Credit (CR) or No Credit (NR), after the APEX project has been completed. This means most students will receive credit for the course in a different/later term than their enrollment in PUBH 6022.
Required Practicum/APEx Forms

Students must work with their Practicum team and Site Preceptor to ensure the following forms are submitted on the GWorks Website during the semester. For those students enrolled in PUBH 6022, all forms below are completed after receiving instructor approval on their APEX Template. All forms that must be filled out prior to beginning their established plan of work are bolded below.

Required Forms

1. Student Application (prerequisite entered by student in GWorks)
2. Site Preceptor Application (prerequisite entered by Preceptor in GWorks)
3. Job Description (prerequisite entered by Preceptor in GWorks)
4. GW Advisor and Site Preceptor Endorsement Form (prerequisite submitted to Preceptor for review and signature, then submitted to Dr. Paichadze for review and signature, student submits to the student project oversight portal)
5. Student Practicum Plan (prerequisite entered by student in GWorks)
6. Hour Log (student submits weekly hour logs that details 2-3 sentences their activities completed in the GWorks system)
7. Mid-point Evaluation Form (during Practicum/APEx entered by student in GWorks)
8. Final Student Evaluation Form (by student after completion of the Practicum/APEx in GWorks)
9. Final Site Preceptor Evaluation (by preceptor after completion of the Practicum/APEx in GWorks)

Academic Integrity

Please review the University’s policy on academic integrity, located at www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html. All graded work must be completed in accordance with The George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity.

Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information. Common examples of academically dishonest behavior include, but are not limited to, the following: Cheating; Fabrication; Plagiarism; Falsification and forgery of University academic documents; Facilitating academic dishonesty.
Support for Students Outside the Classroom

- **Disabilities Support Services (DSS) 202.994.8250**
  Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact Disability Support Services in Rome Hall, 801 22nd Street, NW, Suite 102, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information see: [https://disabilitysupport.gwu.edu/](https://disabilitysupport.gwu.edu/)

- **Counseling and Psychological Services - 202-994-5300**
  GW’s Colonial Health Center offers counseling and psychological services, supporting mental health and personal development by collaborating directly with students to overcome challenges and difficulties that may interfere with academic, emotional, and personal success. For additional information see: [https://healthcenter.gwu.edu/counseling-and-psychological-services](https://healthcenter.gwu.edu/counseling-and-psychological-services)