

Milken Institute School  
of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Milken Institute School of Public Health  
Department of Global Health

PubH 6014.xx

Practicum in Global Health Epidemiology  
and Disease Control

**Practicum Director**

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**Course Description**

The Practicum is a **2 credit requirement during which the student works a minimum of 120 hours**, in an appropriate Global Health-related organization. The student must work under the supervision of an approved site preceptor. The practicum 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.

It is structured as a three-way partnership between the student, Milken Institute SPH, and a sponsoring agency/organization and each Practicum 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 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 provides the opportunity to hone skills or to gain new experience in a different area of specialization.

The Practicum 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 and Culminating Experience must have their proposals **pre-approved** by both the Practicum Director and their Faculty Advisor.

During the Practicum, students will be required to use the GWorks web portal on a regular basis. All of the required practicum forms (e.g. Practicum Plan) will be available and must be entered on this site. Specific departmental materials will be available on DGH Online. Students must visit DGH Online prior to planning for their practicum.

**\*\*\*All students completing an international practicum must comply with the University's International Travel Approval Policy, by completing the necessary application and approval forms and receiving approval for travel\*\*\***

### **Course Prerequisites**

- PubH 6002- Biostatistical Applications for Public Health
- PubH 6003- Principles and Practices of Epidemiology
- PubH 6400- Global Health Frameworks
- PubH 6247- Design of Health Studies
- PubH 6249- Use of Statistical Packages: Data Management and Data Analysis
- PubH 6416- Ethical & Cultural Issues in Global Health Research & Programs
- PubH 6411- Global Health Qualitative Research Methods **OR**  
PubH 6252 – Advanced Epidemiology Methods
- Complete the required online CITI training (Social and Behavioral Research Module)
- Obtain IRB Approval for Human Subjects Research, if applicable
- **The Practicum must be pre-approved first by a student's Faculty Advisor and the DGH Practicum Coordinator**

### **Course Learning Objectives**

1. Navigate institutions and mechanisms through which global health disease control policies and programs are designed and implemented.
2. Apply conceptual frameworks and knowledge of global health patterns, determinants and disparities in support of global health disease control.
3. Apply quantitative and/or qualitative methods to disease control policy and programmatic research in the global context.

### **Course Competencies (at least 3 of the following must be applied in a students practicum)**

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.

**(at least 1 of the following must be applied in a student's practicum)**

10. Apply epidemiological and multi-disciplinary concepts to identify, analyze and address global health challenges including burden of illness and the determinants and distribution disease in populations.
11. Select the appropriate qualitative and/or quantitative methods depending on the specific research or programmatic need and apply underlying principles to design and conduct such studies including observational and experimental designs, screening programs, and public health surveillance.
12. Apply appropriate data analysis methods and interpret the results from epidemiological studies.
13. Interpret and critique research and best practices to inform the development of evidence-based solutions for global health challenges.
14. Communicate evidence on global health topics to a variety of audiences including technical experts, policymakers, lay audiences, and other relevant stakeholders.
15. Work in a multidisciplinary team to identify and address the ethical issues of global health programs, policies and research.
16. Engage with diverse individuals, organizations, and communities with respect for different values, beliefs and practices.
17. Analyze multilevel determinants of problems in global health that form the basis for disease control strategies and interventions.

**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**

The practicum is graded as Credit (CR) or No Credit (NR).

## **Required Practicum Forms**

Students must work with their Practicum Coordinator, Faculty Advisor and Site Preceptor to ensure the following forms are submitted on the Practicum Website during the semester. 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. Site Application (prerequisite entered by Preceptor in GWorks)
4. Project Description (prerequisite entered by preceptor in GWorks)
5. Student Practicum Plan (prerequisite entered by student in GWorks)
6. Mid-point Evaluation Form (during Practicum entered by student in GWorks)
7. Final Student Evaluation Form (by student after completion of the Practicum in GWorks)
8. Final Site Preceptor Evaluation (by preceptor after completion of the Practicum in GWorks)

### **Academic Integrity**

Please review the University's policy on academic integrity, located at [www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html](http://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.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you feel you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, please contact me privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact the Disability Support Services Office at 202.994.8250, Suite 102 Rome Hall, <http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss> , to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations.