WHAT IS A PRACTICUM?

WHAT DO THE GWSPH PRACTICUMS LOOK LIKE?
Students are required to complete at least 120 hours of supervised public health fieldwork and submit two work products that display proof of attainment of five selected competencies.

WHO CAN BE A PRACTICUM SITE AND PRECEPTOR?
The practicum must be conducted in a public health or related setting; and must be supervised by an experienced public-health (or related field) professional as outlined below:

- Doctoral-level degree and current, full-time, relevant professional public health experience; or
- Master of Public Health degree and at least three years of full-time, relevant professional public health experience; or
- Other Master-level degree and at least five years of full-time, relevant professional public health experience; or
- Bachelor level degree and at least ten years of full-time, relevant professional public health experience.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PRACTICUM?
The goal of a Practicum is to provide an opportunity for students to synthesize, integrate, and apply practical skills, knowledge, and training learned through courses, to gain professional experience in a public health work environment, and to work on public health practice projects.

PRACTICUM SITES HAVE THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS

- Serves a public health, health services, or social impact mission or supports an agency or department with that mission
- Addresses significant public health, health services or social problems
- Offers students the opportunity to learn from public health professionals in a supervised environment
- Have well-defined activities that will enable students to apply their knowledge and skills

PRECEPTOR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Review Guidebooks
- Review and approve the Practicum Plan
- Provide constructive feedback and guidance to student
- Complete Midpoint and Final Evaluations
- Negotiate payment or stipend with the student, if applicable
- Address any reports from the student of concerns

OPPORTUNITIES THAT QUALIFY AS A PRACTICUM

Practicums can be developed in tandem with the student and organization or created out of existing opportunities such as:

- Internship
- Volunteer Position
- Part-time or Full-time Job Opportunity

MORE INFO: HTTPS://PUBLICHEALTH.GWU.EDU/ACADEMICS/PRACTICUM

Contact GWSPH Office of Applied Public Health at sphprac@gwu.edu