

Frequently Asked Questions ***MPH Student***

(1) Are there any requirements before registering for the practicum?

Yes. Prior to enrolling in the practicum, you must complete the following:

- Courses
 - PubH 205 (Policy Approaches to Public Health)
 - Department- and program-specific prerequisites (see the SPHHS practicum website)
 - CITI Course in The Protection of Human Research Subjects (<http://www.citi.org>)
- Meetings
 - Meet with departmental Practicum Director
 - Attend SPHHS Practicum Preparation Seminar

(2) When should I begin the practicum planning process?

It is never too early to begin thinking about your practicum. Most full-time MPH students complete their practicum during their second year of study.

You should plan to **begin this process no later than the semester before you intend to begin the practicum experience.**

(3) How do I find a practicum site and site preceptor?

You are expected to take a proactive role and demonstrate initiative in selecting a practicum site and site preceptor. The following are resources that you may find helpful in securing your experience:

- Web resources:
 - SPHHS Practicum Website
 - E-Connect
 - SPHHS Jobs Database
- Your departmental Practicum Director

(4) I'm already in a job/internship/fellowship; can this count as my practicum?

You may complete the practicum requirement at your current place of employment, internship, or fellowship; however, this is not encouraged.

If you do decide to use the same site, you must abide by the following:

- The site and site preceptor must meet SPHHS practicum qualifications.

- Your site preceptor cannot be your current supervisor.
 - All of the contact hour requirement (e.g. 120 hours) must be completed under the supervision of your Practicum site preceptor.
- The content and activities of the practicum must be distinct from your regular work, and must be outlined in your Student Practicum Plan.

(5) *Is the practicum the same as my culminating experience?*

The practicum and culminating experience are two distinct requirements. However, the practicum may or may not be linked to the culminating experience depending on your work, interests, and track's requirements. For example, the practicum can be developed into a central thesis theme that can be further explored during the culminating experience.

(6) *Do I have to complete the practicum in one semester?*

No, your practicum can be completed in one semester or carried out over multiple semesters. Be sure the time frame you envision is pre-approved by your Practicum Director and Site Preceptor (e.g., clearly stated in your Student Practicum Plan). You only need to register once for the practicum.

(7) *Am I able to receive financial compensation for the practicum?*

Yes. However, this is a matter to be negotiated between you and the site preceptor. The possibility of payment is not a consideration in the approval of the practicum. In most cases, because of the limited duration and nature of practicum placements, they are unpaid.

It is your responsibility to cover any fees that may be associated with your site (e.g. required immunizations, personal protective equipment, travel).

(8) *Am I able to complete my practicum overseas?*

Yes. This takes additional, early planning on your part. Please refer to the [SPHHS International Guidebook](#) for more information.

(9) *It is possible to be exempt from this requirement?*

There are no automatic exemptions or waivers of the SPHHS practicum. In rare situations, it is possible to receive "Practicum Equivalent Experience."

Please refer to this section of the SPHHS Practicum Handbook. Note: If you wish to apply for this, you must **file a request by petition during your first semester**.

(10) *I think I've found a good opportunity. What do I do now?*

- a) Meet with your Practicum Director to determine if the proposed practicum opportunity is suitable.
- b) Sign-in to the SPHHS Practicum Website and begin filling out your Student Profile and Student Practicum Plan in conjunction with your Site Preceptor.
- c) Register for the practicum course.