

Information for Preceptors

Thank you for your willingness to mentor a University of New England MPH student at your work site. The applied practice experience or APE is an important component of the curriculum, and helps our students in their educational and professional development. It also gives them the opportunity to work on projects that could be shared with the wider public health community. Students can complete their field experiences in the fall, spring or summer semesters which typically start in August, January and May respectively.

Preceptor qualifications

- A graduate public health degree such as an MPH or higher is preferred. Degrees similar to an MPH such as Masters degrees in Healthcare administration, public policy etc. will be considered OR
- A BA/BS with 5+ years of public health experience

Before the Applied Practice Experience

- Discuss potential projects and tasks with the student. These should be challenging and substantive at the level expected for a graduate student, and align with program and foundational competencies.
- Clarify expectations for students' work including time commitment, work space and deliverables
- Design a project that can be feasibly completed in 16 weeks or less.

- Work with the student to complete the [applied practice experience learning contract](#)
- Help the student determine two high quality products and five public health competencies that align with the APE project.
- Ensure that the affiliation agreement is signed by authorized personnel at the APE site.

During the Applied Practice Experience

- Ensure that students are adequately introduced to the site, colleagues and project.
- Oversee the student's activities and provide feedback as needed.
- Provide mentoring and exposure to different parts of the organization.
- Review and sign the student's progress reports.
- Communicate with UNE's Asst. Director for Public Health Practice as needed.

At the end of the Applied Practice Experience

- Complete an online evaluation of the student's performance.
- Communicate any issues directly to the practicum coordinator.
- Optional: Use [this form](#) to express interest in working with another UNE MPH student.

Frequently Asked Questions

What types of projects can students complete?

Examples of projects include but are not limited to grant writing, data collection and analysis, program evaluation, policy development, creating budgets or health promotion materials, GIS

mapping etc.

What are examples of high quality products?

Grant proposals, surveys, evaluation reports, health promotion materials, databases, GIS maps, infographics, web pages etc.

Can students be paid?

Compensation is not required. The decision to pay the student is up to the site.

What is the minimum time commitment?

There is no minimum time commitment for the Applied Practice Experience. The minimum requirement is the creation of two high quality final products that are useful to your site. These products must align with a minimum of five public health competencies.

Where can I find a list of competencies?

The competencies are listed on the last page of the APE learning contract. There are five program competencies and twenty-two foundational competencies. Three of the five competencies students select must be foundational.

For questions contact Susan Rooker at srooker@une.edu and copy Deborah Shields, Program Director at dshields1@une.edu.