

# MPH INTERNSHIPS: THE APPLIED PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

## What is the MPH Internship?

The MPH Internship provides an opportunity for students to gain **hands-on experience in a public health practice setting** relevant to their career interests by working with a community partner (see section "Where do students complete their MPH Internship") on a wide variety of public health issues. For MPH students in the School of Public Health (SOPH), the internship is a required component of their degree. The MPH internship must be completed over a single semester after the student completes their core courses. The internship is planned, supervised, and evaluated by the internship advisor (a SOPH faculty member), agency preceptor (site supervisor), and internship coordinator.

Ultimately, it is the student's responsibility to secure an internship. Students should start looking for an internship and reaching out to community partners at least 2-3 months prior to the semester in which they intend to complete their internship.

## What are the basic requirements?



**Public Health Practice focus** - Students should receive hands-on experience addressing public health issues in the community. The internships should not consist primarily of research, clerical, clinical, or shadowing activities.



**Minimum two (2) tangible work products** - Students must develop at least two products benefiting their host organization.



**180 hours minimum** - in which the student must work with or on behalf of their host organization over one semester; tracked through the **APEX system**.



**Five (5) Competencies** - Students are responsible for aligning their products with 5 of the MPH Foundational Competencies.

## What are Products?

Products are tangible work items developed by the student during their internship which benefit their host organization (e.g., infographics, grant proposals, analysis reports). Products should be those typical for an entry-level MPH position and appropriate for the background (education and training) and credentials of the student.

## Where do students complete MPH internships?



**ACADEMIA**



**HOSPITALS &  
CLINICS**



**HEALTH  
DEPARTMENTS**



**NON-PROFITS &  
COMMUNITY ORGS**



**INDUSTRY**



**GOVERNMENT**

## What internship projects do students complete?

Students can complete a variety of internship projects as long as they align with the internship requirements. Previous students' projects have included the creation of data analysis reports in order to better inform programming or outreach of organizations or community clinics, grant proposals or components therein. Interns have created awareness or other informational campaigns by designing infographics or educational materials and curriculum. If a site does not have a set project, students are encouraged to discuss and formulate a project with their preceptor.

## What do Preceptors do?

Preceptors are the on-site supervisors within the host organization that provide direct guidance and feedback to the MPH interns. They must:



Register for an APEX Portal Account (if external to UAB)



Approve the student's internship proposal through APEX



Complete a Midpoint Evaluation of Student Performance



Complete a Final Evaluation of Student Performance

