

**Saint Louis University School of Public Health
MPH Practice Experience 2007-2008**

**INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES
for MPH/MS in Nutrition and Dietetics,
MPH/MSN, MPH/MSW**

The Master of Public Health (MPH) Practice Experience (Internship) is coordinated by the Community Health department faculty, the Internship Coordinator and preceptors in the field. A critical component of the curriculum at Saint Louis University School of Public Health is the opportunity for MPH students to integrate their classroom learning with practical experience by participating in a supervised practice placement. The practice experience provides a dynamic environment for students to work with local, state, federal, and international organizations that address significant public health issues.

Students in three of the dual degree programs meet their internship requirements by a course/practice experience within their non-MPH program (MPH/MS in Nutrition and Dietetics, MPH/MSN, MPH/MSW). These students, however, may also wish to use some of the objectives for the MPH Practice Experience Program when planning and setting learning goals for their practice experiences. These objectives are attached to this introduction.

Generally, students in the above dual degree programs register for and decide placements for their practice experiences through their non-MPH department. However, students are welcome to explore opportunities for placement with public health organizations and preceptors, if appropriate. Suggestions for potential practice experience sites/preceptors may be forwarded to the MPH Internship and Placement Coordinator, Catherine Nolan.

For information and assistance regarding practice experience content, placement, policies or documents, contact:

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MPH Internship & Placement Coordinator
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PRACTICE EXPERIENCE OBJECTIVES

Each student in the School of Public Health (SPH) Master of Public Health (MPH) program is required to complete a practice experience in an approved public health agency or organization. The practice experience is intended to enhance the student's education and promote professional development. The goals of the practice experience are to develop core public health practice competencies, and to provide service to the cooperating agencies. More specific goals may include:

1. Application of evidence-based public health principles in practice settings.
2. Becoming acquainted with community groups, agencies and organizations that are involved in the core public health areas of behavioral science/health education, biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental/occupational health, public health administration and health policy.
3. Developing and/or enhancing public health practice ability based on both cross-cutting and concentration-specific public health competencies.
4. Learning by working closely with and under the guidance of experienced public health professionals.
5. Distinguishing between population-based and clinical health interventions.
6. Developing an ability to plan, implement and evaluate health programs for specific populations and/or purposes.
7. Developing an ability to collaborate with various constituents and organizations.
8. Identification and application of basic principles and techniques of research and evaluation.
9. Developing an awareness of factors in the political and policy-making arenas that affect the development, improvement, and expansion of health programs.
10. Refinement of consultation and technical skills as related to program design, implementation, and evaluation or analysis.
11. Attending meetings and/or seminars to develop an appreciation for the work of other organizational personnel.
12. Developing an understanding of the translation and dissemination of public health knowledge in public health practice.

JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS

1. MPH/MS in Nutrition and Dietetics: Students in this joint degree program fulfill the MPH Practice Experience requirement by completing **DT H545-01: Patient/Client Nutrition Management Practicum**. Contact the Practicum Advisor with the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, School of Allied Health Professions, for specific information about the practicum. Students also are required to register for and attend CMH C592-01 (Community Health Rounds) as specified in the syllabus for this course.
2. MPH/MSN: This degree program is designed for students who wish to study concurrently for the MPH degree and the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or Master of Science in Nursing (Research) (MSN[R]) degree with an emphasis on preparation as either a community health nursing practitioner or a family nurse practitioner. The MPH Practice Experience requirement is met by MSN students through completion of their nursing degree clinical practice requirements. Students also are required to register for and attend CMH C592-01 (Community Health Rounds) as specified in the syllabus for this course.
3. MPH/MSW: Students receiving an MSW degree are required to complete four 3-credit hour approved MSW practicum experiences. At least two of these practica should be completed in a health care or community health setting (e.g. Practica III and IV). This practicum experience satisfies the MPH Practice Experience requirements. However, there are particular forms required by the School of Public Health to document the MSW practice experience. Contact the Practicum Advisor with the School of Social Service or the MPH Internship and Placement Coordinator for specific information about the paperwork. Students also are required to register for and attend CMH C592-01 (Community Health Rounds) as specified in the syllabus for this course.