



PPHS 630 MScPH Practicum/Project Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Occupational Health

Term: Summer 2022

Credits: 12

Practicum Instructors: Dr. Stich (Christine.stich@mcgill.ca), Dr. Hankins (Catherine.hankins@mcgill.ca)

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Description

Over the course of your practicum, students will contribute to an organization's mandate, address a public health problem and develop skills as public health practitioner or researcher. MScPH practicums focus on a single project that addresses a public health issue. Students will spend the majority of their time on-site working with public health professionals and will be supervised by a qualified, public health expert.

Objectives

- Build Public Health Core Competencies.
- Meet personal learning objectives.
- Build interpersonal and professional skills.
- Practice what has been learned in the classroom.

Prerequisites

- All required first year MScPH courses.
- The Minerva Academic Integrity Tutorial (under the Student Menu)
- The TCPS 2 Tutorial - Course on Research Ethics (CORE):
<http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/education/tutorial-didacticiel/>

Time and location

The on-site work practicum work takes place over 14 – 16 full-time weeks (minimum) in the summer between the first and second year. Practicums take place in a public health-facing organization. Positions are available in Quebec, Canada and internationally.

Assessment

This course is Pass/Fail determined by the following:

Practicum Proposal

The proposal document is created in collaboration with the practicum supervisor. It contains details about the host organization, supervisor details and contact information, the start and end date of practicum, host organization expectations, project activities and objectives, the public health issue to be addressed, student learning objectives, and the availability of funding/stipend. The final Practicum Proposal must be approved by both the practicum supervisor and the Program Advisor. Remember to seek ethics approval, if required, for practicum projects.

Length: approx. 3 pages, a template available in MyCourses.

Deadline: **March 1, 2022** for international placements OR **April 1, 2022** for local/national placements.

Submit proposals to: practicum.eboh@mcgill.ca

Practicum Work

This is the on-site work at the host organization, where students will put into action the plan outlined in the Practicum Proposal. A Final Report describing this work must be submitted to the practicum supervisor and to the MScPH department (see below).

Length: 14 – 16 weeks (minimum)

Final Evaluation

- A. Students must complete an evaluation form at the end of their practicum. The purpose of this form is to evaluate the practicum environment, learning outcomes, supervisor and overall experience. This is a confidential assessment, meaning it will not be shared with the practicum supervisor or anyone else outside the MScPH department.
- B. Each supervisor must complete an evaluation form at the end of the practicum. The purpose of this form is to evaluate learning outcomes, student contribution to the host organization, and overall performance. This is a confidential assessment, meaning it will not be shared with students or anyone else outside the MScPH department.

A link to the form will be available via MyCourses

Deadline: approx. September 2021

Submit to: practicum.eboh@mcgill.ca

Final report

A report must be completed following the practicum experience. The practicum report should provide a coherent account of the topic specified in your Practicum Proposal, the field work or research you have done, and your role in it. It should discuss what you learned about the application of concepts, techniques, and ideas. This will also include reflections on your own experience in this regard, more general notes of interest to other population and public health professionals based upon your experience, and areas identified as needing further attention.

Length: approx. 10 pages, double spaced, 12 pt (not including bibliography or appendices).

Deadline: November 1, 2022

Submit to: practicum.eboh@mcgill.ca

Presentation

All students will prepare and present a poster of their project for display during Public Health Day in the winter session. A public presentation of the practicum project is also strongly recommended. This may take place at the practicum site, at a seminar at McGill or another Montreal academic setting, at EBOSS Student Research Day, or at a scientific or practice conference. More information on poster preparation will be provided.

Deadline: TBD (Winter 2023)

Student expectations

It is each student's responsibility to identify, arrange, and complete a satisfactory practicum experience that fulfills program requirements. The department can and will assist you, but the student retains the final responsibility.

Students may identify a potential practicum in an institution or area of specific interest. It is the responsibility of the student and the practicum supervisor to demonstrate to the program that the experience will meet the

program's expectations. A practicum not based in a specific public health agency/organization needs to be justified in relation to how the practicum will support the student's development as a public health professional.

Throughout their practicum, students are expected to meet professional standards of conduct, including: having respect for the confidentiality of health or other information related to individuals; having respect for the confidentiality of agency information; and behaving responsibly regarding attendance and interest in agency activities.

Funding and Expenses

Students should be expected to cover their travel costs to the practicum location and their living costs while there. Where extensive travel is required to attend a practicum (e.g. international location, travel across North America), students should ensure that they have sufficient funds to cover expected costs well in advance of the practicum. An exception would be any travel and additional costs required to conduct practicum-related duties that are the responsibility of the hosting organization (e.g. practicum student asked to assist with investigating an outbreak in an outlying community).

The program office will provide information about potential funding sources for the practicum, such as the McGill Mobility Awards.

Choosing a supervisor

The practicum supervisor needs to have expertise in the project area, experience and status within the organization, and an interest and competence in supervising and mentoring. They must be able to guide and support at the graduate level.

The responsibilities of the Supervisor are to:

- Develop a realistic project plan and work schedule with the student.
- Be available on a regular (minimum weekly) basis to meet with and supervise the student.
- Provide the guidance and support necessary for successful completion of the project, and on-going feedback about the performance of the student.
- Arrange for the student to obtain any resources needed to complete the project (e.g., appropriate data, access to key personnel, work space, administrative support as appropriate)
- Try to assist the students in their professional development (i.e. help them network, arrange for them to attend meetings during the placement, etc.)
- Evaluate the student and at the end of the practicum placement.

See Supervisor Guidelines document for additional information on roles and responsibilities.