

MPH students are required to demonstrate proficiency in the application of the skills they acquire during their academic programs through the **Practicum** (PubH 214.13) and the **Culminating Experience** (PubH 215.13).

The **Practicum** is a credit/no credit course which consists of a Practice Activity - defined as a planned, supervised, and evaluated experience in a public health organization. The Practice Activity can consist either of a primary research or surveillance project including data collection and analysis, or a secondary analysis of an existing data base. The Practice Activity enables the student to apply new skills in the context of public health, and must not be directly related to the student's day-to-day work. If the student does conduct the Practice Activity at his/her place of employment, this must be a separate activity for which the student is not remunerated.

As part of the **Practicum**, the students also participate in a six or seven-session Epidemiology-Biostatistics Skills Building Seminar, designed to help prepare them for their practice activity and professional life.

The **Culminating Experience (CE)** is a graded course which consists of the following four products that stem from research and practice involving a specific public health issue: (a) Concept Paper, (b) Proposal, (c) Final Report, and (d) Oral Presentation. Although it is not mandatory, students often link the CE with the Practicum. This way the CE serves as the integration of the application of the methods and the interpretation of results.

Before beginning the practicum students must meet certain course requirements, outlined in the course syllabi and the **Student Checklist**. They should discuss their academic schedule with their Academic Advisor to ensure they meet these course requirements, and once they do, they should contact one of the Practicum Co-Directors listed below. Dr. Castel works with students whose last names end in A-L and Prof. Goldman works with those whose last names end in M-Z.

The Practicum Co-Directors are:

Ann Goldman, MPH
Practicum Co-Director

Ross Hall, 120 E

Tel.: (202)994-4581

Fax: (202)994-0082

Email: sphasg@gwumc.edu

Office Hours: Wed. 2-4 p.m. and by appt

Amanda Castel

Practicum Co-Director

Ross Hall, Suite 120 B

Tel.: (202)994-8325

Fax (202)994-0082

Email: sphaxc@gwumc.edu

Office Hours: by appt

Dr. Castel advises students with last names A – L; Professor Goldman advises students with last names M-Z. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns.