

The MPH Field Experience in Epidemiology and Biostatistics Information and Resources

General Description

The SPH online handbook has general information for MPH students doing field practica/experiences.

http://www.uic.edu/depts/spha/student_handbook/handbook.htm#handbook

Specific information for Epi/Bio students:

All students in the comprehensive Epidemiology or Biostatistics program must undertake a field experience for 3-5 semester hours, based on the field experience responsibilities (64 clock hours per sh in a 16-week semester). Field experience is not required for students in the Professional Enhancement Program (PEP). SPH Memorandum of Understanding and Field Learning Agreement forms must be completed prior to embarking upon the field experience.

The field experience must be practical, applied and public health in orientation, and should preferably be with an organized public or private agency. The field experience need not be an unpaid internship. Working with his/her advisor, and with the latter's signed approval the student must submit a detailed (but brief) field experience proposal to the field site preceptor. Students must obtain signed agreements with the agency and the on-site supervisor. Final evaluations are required of both the supervisor and the student, and must be signed by the student's academic advisor. Final Student and Supervisor Evaluation Forms must be given to the advisor for review and signature in order to obtain a grade for IPHS 650.

See Gwen Slaughter, SPH Assistant Director of Student Affairs, one semester prior to your intended Field Experience for critical documentation and other important information.

The contact hours you need to spend at your field site are as follows:

3sh	192 hrs total	or	12 hours per week for 16 weeks
4sh	256 hrs total	or	16 hours per week for 16 weeks
5sh	320 hrs total	or	20 hours per week for 16 weeks

Database of Prior Sites

See Dachea Hill-Bryan or Liliana Aceves for access to the printable report of prior field experience sites. This lists prior field experiences, location, contact, job description, benefits or pay (if any), and overall comments. Your advisor, other students, and alumni may also be good resources in selecting a field experience site.

Objectives of the Experience

You and your advisor will develop a set of learning objectives for the field experience. The position may possibly involve data analysis, investigations or surveys in local communities, data collection for a project or agency, or general assistance in a public health office. The overall goals are non-specific so that students can create their own experience, to match their research and professional interests with what the practicum site makes available to them.

Remember, this experience is likely to be the basis of your MPH Capstone research project. Will your activity at this site be a good source for the Capstone project? Your advisor is someone who may be able to help you determine this, when developing your learning objectives.

Registering for Course Credit - IPHS 650

All students will need to do three things to obtain official credit for the Field Experience:

1. Complete the Field Learning Agreement and (where necessary) Memorandum of Understanding
 - a. This requires you to develop learning objectives for this program.
 - b. Obtain these forms from Gwen Slaughter, room 183 SPHPI - return them to her as well.
 - c. Be sure to obtain the signatures of your advisor and your field site supervisor *in advance*.
2. Register for IPHS 650 for 3, 4, or 5sh by the IPHS Registration Form
 - a. Download the form from: http://www.uic.edu/sph/downloads/iphs_reg_form.pdf.
 - b. Submit the signed form to Renita Moore-Shannon, SPH Registrar, in room 181 SPHPI before the 10th day of registration.
3. Submit completed Employer and Student Evaluation forms to your advisor
 - a. Your advisor will only give you a grade for IPHS 650 upon receipt of evaluation forms.
 - b. Please submit forms to Dachea Hill-Bryan after meeting with your advisor.

Contact your advisor or Dachea Hill-Bryan (dhillbry@uic.edu) with questions about the Field Experience.