



Midwestern Public Health Training Center

Region VII

Field Placement Internship Guide

2021-2022 Academic Year

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Field Placement Internship Guide

This guide has been adapted from the Region VI South Central Public Health Training Center's field placement internship guide.



Midwestern Public Health Training Center

Internship Checklist and Deliverables

Students:

Please use the checklist below to ensure that you have completed all requirements of the HRSA-sponsored Region VII Midwestern Public Health Training Center (MPHTC) Internship. The information listed below must be received by the Region VII Student Placement Coordinator. Please note the due dates for deliverables vary.

BEFORE beginning the project: [Complete the Field Placement Agreement Form](#)

DURING the project: Submit 3 blog entries detailing project progress

Upon **COMPLETION** of the project, the following will need to be completed:

- Preceptor's Online Evaluation
- Student's Online Evaluation
- Scientific Report or Poster Presentation

Once these items have been submitted, payment will be distributed. If you have any questions, please contact the Region VII Student Placement Coordinator, Laurie Walkner at laurie-walkner@uiowa.edu



Midwestern Public Health Training Center

Field Placement Internship Program

This guide contains information and materials for the HRSA Region VII Midwestern Public Health Training Center's field placement internship program. MPHTC is comprised of one central office and three Community-Based Training Partners (CBT). The University of Iowa houses the central office. Wichita State University, St. Louis University and the University of Nebraska Medical Center house the CBTs. Region VII includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska.

The field placement internship is a planned and supervised practice experience in which the student demonstrates how the degree program competencies are fulfilled and applies measurable learning objectives to real-world public health practice. The MPHTC field placement internship program provides the opportunity for graduate students in MPH programs to develop the practice skills needed to join the public health workforce. The internship consists of 175 to 300 hours of field experience at a public health agency or organization. In this program, the terms "field placement" and "internship" are used interchangeably.

The student will receive a stipend of \$3,500 upon completion of the internship. HRSA provides the funds for the stipends through MPHTC. HRSA has mandatory reporting requirements (see below) for those who receive its funds as stipends.

The internship program promotes partnerships among public health academics and practitioners. Each of the HRSA Region VII Midwestern Public Health Training Center sites will identify public health agencies or organizations that will provide internships and mentor students.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A student must be:

1. a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
2. enrolled in a graduate program in a health profession.
3. enrolled as a junior or senior student in an undergraduate program.
4. enrolled as a community college student at a Tribal College or University

A proposed project must:

1. be a project impacting underserved communities such as:
 - a. HPSA,
 - b. rural population,
2. have a focus on socio-environmental factors related to public health needs.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Central Site and Community-Based Training Partners roles and responsibilities

- Each State will designate a staff/faculty member to serve as the field placement State Advisor for each student intern.
- The MPHTC State Advisor provides general oversight of placements that occur in agencies.

MPHTC State Advisor roles and responsibilities

- Assure field placement sites meet priority project requirements and assure students have an agreement with the site.
- Advertise placement opportunities to students pursuing a degree in a health profession within the site's state. Encourage students from disadvantaged backgrounds (who comes from a social, cultural, or educational environment that has inhibited the person from obtaining knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop and participate in a health professions education or training program), to apply.
- Coordinate with public health schools and programs in each state to identify and place student interns.
- Work with the student and preceptor to develop a field placement plan for the student.
- Coordinate with the preceptor to ensure agreement on student activities.
- Provide an orientation to student that includes information on where PHTC trainings and other learning opportunities are available to promote a culture of learning.
- Provide advice and feedback to students.
- Review and approve all blogs and final report (report will be shared with HRSA as required by the cooperative agreement)
- Review overall progress of the student during placement.
- Ensure all placement requirements are completed
- Ensure all HRSA-required reporting documentation is sent to MPHTC. Documentation includes student application to include resume and statement of interest (if it applies), field placement agreement form, student evaluation, and preceptor evaluation, and poster presentation, or scientific report.
- Coordinate with your University to process stipend payments.

Student roles and responsibilities

- Comply with internship site policies and procedures.
- Acquire as much information about the agency and project as possible before beginning the placement (visit website, review any material provided, etc.).
- Exhibit professionalism in all aspects of the placement including attendance, appointments, meetings, and discussions with supervisors and others.
- Maintain complete client confidentiality.
- Seek the advice and assistance of the agency preceptor when uncertain about tasks.

Student Tasks

- Develop a field placement/project plan including learning objectives, a timeline of milestones, and final deliverables.
- Ask your faculty advisor and the preceptor at the field placement site to approve your plan.
- Complete a 175-300 hours fulfilling project plan requirements.
- Complete necessary paperwork prior to starting your field placement.
- Participate in regularly scheduled progress review meetings with your preceptor and/or faculty advisor.
- Complete 3 blog entries during your internship (see [page 7](#)).
- Use the outline provided to submit a final report describing your project to your state MPHTC state coordinator.
- Complete the final online evaluation of your placement experience.
- Respond to an electronic follow-up survey about your employment after graduation.

Preceptor roles and responsibilities

- Develop the opportunity and agree to accept a student intern.
- Work with the student to identify specific objectives, milestones, and deliverables.
- Supervise the student and provide technical and administrative oversight, including signing off on student's hours.
- Provide regular guidance to the student.
- Review the student's progress and send a formal online evaluation at the end of the field experience.
- Collaborate with the MPHTC State Advisor on the field placement.

ELEMENTS OF THE FIELD PLACEMENT

1. The MPHTC State Advisor identifies or approves the field placement agency and preceptor, and matches the student to the field placement.
2. The student completes all of the forms and requested information in the field placement packet.
3. The student, MPHTC State Advisor, and Preceptor collaborate to complete the Field Placement Agreement Form, including the field placement description, learning objectives, expectations, milestones, and expected deliverables.
4. The student completes 175-300 hours for the internship.
5. The student keeps a log of work hours and activities/events.
6. The student writes a final report using the [Scientific Report or Poster Presentation Guidance](#).
7. The student submits 3 blog entries.
8. The student completes the online field placement evaluation form.
9. The preceptor completes the online field placement evaluation form, using a link provided by the student or MPHTC State Advisor.
10. The student completes an online follow-up survey on the skills obtained and job placement approximately a year after completing the internship.
11. The MPHTC State Advisor ensures that students fulfill their field placement and reporting requirements.

BLOG ENTRIES

Consider including the following in your blog entries:

- Background on the field placement organization
- An outline of the field placement project
- Comments on project activities
- 1 to 2 images of project work, the organization, co-workers, and/or presentations (upload these as image files, not as part of your text)
- How your coursework has prepared you for this placement and vice versa
- Your project's relationship to broader public health topics (Social determinants of health, health equity, pandemic, systems thinking, etc.)
- Read this [blog post](#) for some easy tips

The blog entries help MPHTC promote the interns' projects, and field placement opportunities more broadly, and provide an example of field placement projects for future preceptors and students. Blog entries should be submitted during the field placement: one in the first couple of weeks, one midway through, and one upon completion. The mid-point and final blog submissions should draw upon successes of the project for the student and the community they are working in.

Students are encouraged to use their blog entries in writing their [final reports](#).

A blog entry should be approximately 200-400 words and should include 1 to 2 images, if appropriate. Blog entry submissions should include a tweet that can be used to promote the story.

Blog entries should be created as google docs and saved in this [Google Drive folder](#). Notify the Region VII Student Placement Coordinator, Laurie Walkner, at Laurie-walkner@uiowa.edu and your state advisor.

Please:

- Create your blog as a google doc, **do not upload a Word document or a pdf**;
- Include a title;
- Photos need to be uploaded separately as photos (jpgs, pngs, etc.). Do not paste your photos into a document;
- Provide captions for your photos;
- Proofread your writing.

Below is an example of a way to structure your posts:

1. MPHTC Student Success Blog Title
2. Title
3. Author
4. School
5. Background
6. Action/Activity
7. Results
8. Reflection

SCIENTIFIC REPORT OR POSTER PRESENTATION GUIDANCE:

The scientific report or poster should include the following:

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Methodology
- Findings
- Conclusions
- Discussion

Additionally, it should include:

- 1) A description of the project and activities you completed, and how you applied the knowledge and skills gained from your graduate coursework to your internship.
- 2) How the project helps to address the needs of the agency.
- 3) Information about any work done with rural or medically underserved populations.
- 4) How this project and activities impacted the agency, community or target audience.
- 5) Public health disciplines you worked with to complete this project.
- 6) How you demonstrated competencies from the MPH [Core Competency Model](#) during your internship.
- 7) Be rooted in one or two core public health disciplines (Biostatistics, Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology, Health Policy and Management, or Social and Behavioral Sciences) and two or three cross-cutting core public health core public health competency domains in the primary areas of 1. Analytical/assessment, 2) policy development/program planning, 3) communication skills, 4) cultural competency, 5) community dimensions of practice, 6) public health sciences, 7) financial planning and management and, 8) leadership and systems thinking.

Provide a copy of the field placement report and work products to your:

- 1) Preceptor.
- 2) MPHTC State Advisor.
- 3) Laurie Walkner.

EVALUATION:

Evaluation for the field placement internship program relies on the receipt of these four documents:

- 1) Preceptor evaluation form – Preceptors are expected to meet with the intern to discuss the evaluation. They must also complete an online evaluation form at the end of the placement.
- 2) Student evaluation form – Students submit an evaluation online.
- 3) Student written final report – Students submit a report that follows the guidelines on above.
- 4) Student 1-year follow-up survey – Students are also required to inform MPHTC of their employment after graduation via an online survey that will be sent to a personal email address where the student can be reached after graduation.

HRSA requires MPHTC to report on many elements of the field placements. The evaluation results are used to assist preceptors, advisors, and MPHTC in planning future placements and making program improvements.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

State	Institution	Contact	Email	Phone
Iowa	The University of Iowa	Laurie Walkner, Region VII Field Placement Coordinator	Laurie-walkner@uiowa.edu	319-335-8451
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