Overview – BU SPH Practicum

All MPH students will complete a minimum of 240 hours in a public health organization. Students can complete the practicum at one of the many healthcare and public health organizations in Boston or around the globe. When securing a placement, students should think about the type of job they would like to hold post-MPH and review relevant job descriptions. Students missing knowledge and skills that are in demand, should look to fill these “gaps” with their practicum.

Prerequisites
- Students may begin a practicum after successfully completing the core curriculum (16 BU SPH credits).

1. Finding your Practicum: Students are responsible for finding an appropriate Practicum experience, and there are multiple ways to go about your search:
   - SPH Handshake: View the latest practicum opportunities on SPH Handshake from organizations in search of SPH students. This list is regularly updated to ensure that the positions are relevant and still available.
   - Career Services Office: Practicum Outreach Specialists will discuss your interests and help you identify target organizations. Please email sphcareerofoce@bu.edu to schedule an appointment.
   - Abstract Book: Practicum Abstract Books from previous semesters provide practicum descriptions viewable by academic concentration or by agency.
   - Network with Faculty, Fellow Students and Alumni.
   - Use external job boards, and set up internship/practicum alerts.

2. Proposal Form: This document sets up the expectations, scope of work, anticipated work products, and timeline before the start of the Practicum.
   - Choose five program competencies that you hope to address in the practicum and identify a deliverable or project you will be working on to gain skills and knowledge in each area. You will also need to include Practicum site and supervisor contact information.
   - The proposal form is submitted via the SPH Practicum Portal for review by the Faculty Practicum Committee and the site supervisor.
   - The Faculty Practicum Committee will offer feedback and note any changes/updates.
   - When approved, register for your Practicum by completing a “Practicum Registration Form” with the Registrar’s Office. ALL students must officially register for the Practicum.

3. Midpoint Review
   - The Practicum Portal will prompt you to complete a Midpoint Review and update your progress in relation to the competencies, deliverables, and timeline.
   - Discuss your progress with the practicum supervisor
   - Upon submission, the Faculty Practicum Committee will review and offer feedback.

4. Final Work Product Submission and Evaluation
   - As the end date approaches, the Practicum Portal will send a reminder to discuss deliverables and competency mastery with your supervisor in preparation for submission of the final work product(s).
   - The final work product(s) will be submitted via the SPH Practicum Portal.
   - Student and supervisor will complete final evaluations.
   - The Faculty Practicum Committee will review, provide feedback, and approve all works products.