**MPH Experiential Learning Requirements**

Competencies can be found in the Infection Control Program Guidance Site

**Students following Catalog Years before 2018:**

After completing foundational courses and all infection control concentration courses, register for:

**Field Experience (FE) PHC 6945 (syllabus),** completed [Domestic Field Experience Plan](#)

Forms should be emailed to FEhelp@usf.edu once your mentor has approved and signed.

FE Contract/Plan must be submitted NO LATER THAN 1 week prior to the start of the semester - this will assign the Course Registration Number (CRN#) under which you will register.

**Students following Catalog Year 2018 and after:**

Refer to the subsequent pages in this document as well as this [link to APE](#) in the College MPH Guidebook for planning and guidance to meet the requirements for a successful completion of the experience and course requirements.

- Minimum of 2 experiences (APE #1-internship; APE #2 [IPE]) ([See next page](#))
- Track and record in E-Portfolio

Start planning your APE internship several semesters before you plan to complete it.

After completing foundational courses and all infection control concentration courses, register for:

**Applied Practice Experience (APE) PHC 6949 (syllabus)** under your faculty mentor

- Complete and obtain mentor signature on Learning Agreement form
- Once both you and mentor have signed, submit to FEHelp@usf.edu
- Obtain CRN from Experiential Learning and use to register
- Complete APE #1 and APE #2 (IPE)
- Submit Products
- Report your experiences
- Exit Interview
INFECTION CONTROL CONCENTRATION

Guidelines for Applied Practice Experience (APE)

**Applied Practice Experiences (3 credits) (PHC 6949)**

Beginning in fall 2018, incoming MPH students will complete PHC 6949: Applied Practice Experience. Applied Practice Experiences (APE) allow students to apply the knowledge, skills, and theories learned in the program in a real-world public health setting. Students have the opportunity to learn from public health professionals in a variety of infection prevention and control setting.

Students in the infection control concentration must complete two Applied Practice Experiences (APE). APE #1 is an internship in an infection control or infectious disease setting. The product of APE #1 is a poster presented on Virtual Poster Day at USF COPH. APE #1 must meet 3 functional and 2 infection control competencies in the internship.

APE #2 must consist of an interprofessional experience (IPE) that specifically meets Foundational competency #21: performs effectively in interprofessional teams. The IPE is APE #2. The product of the IPE (APE #2) is a reflection paper. **NOTE: The IPE does NOT have to meet any infection control competencies.** Thus, it does not have to be related to infection control or infectious diseases. However, if you wish it relate to infection control or infectious diseases, then you can select one infection control competency, in addition to foundational competency #21, to meet. For ideas about IPE, visit the Canvas course ORG03079 Applied Practice Experience. Select the module on Interprofessional Experience.

It is expected that students will complete the APE #1 internship after completing the foundational courses and concentration courses. The APE #2 (IPE) may be completed after the foundational courses. Students should not wait until the last semester to plan and complete the APE experiences. It is best to start the discussion with the mentor early in the program. The faculty mentor’s role is to approve the work site and duties, and evaluate the reports required by the course. All other aspects of the course are managed at the college level, headed by Ms. Somer Burke, Assistant Director of Experiential Learning, and her team. Contact her (sgoad@usf.edu) or her team regarding registration and all required paperwork issues (FEHelp@usf.edu).

If you are employed, you may do your APE #1 internship for the same organization/employer ONLY if the following conditions are met:

- it cannot be your usual job,
- it should be in a different department or physical location;
- it can be doing work that is not part of your regular job,
- it is supervised by someone other than the supervisor of your current position,
• the site does not contain co-workers from your usual job
• this is approved by your mentor

For credit in the course the student will:
• produce two APE Products (APE #1-poster presented on USF COPH Virtual Poster Day) and for APE #2 (IPE) (a reflection paper (that describes the IPE and connects it to foundational competency #21)
• participate in an exit interview with the faculty mentor

Internship
• Completion during the second year of study after finishing core MPH courses and infection control concentration courses
• Must clearly link to a minimum of five competencies: at least three foundational and two infection control-specific competencies
• A minimum of 120-135 contact hours
• Complete and submit your internship plan (learning agreement) form prior to starting the internship.
• Submit the poster. Specific guidelines for infection control posters will be provided. The poster should include the competencies from the learning agreement form.

Examples of acceptable experiences
• Internship at a hospital in the infection control department
• Internship in an occupational health department of a healthcare facility
• Internship in a county health department
• Other internships approved by the academic mentor

Interprofessional experience
• Must meet foundational competency #21: performs effectively in interprofessional teams.
• Does not need to meet infection control competencies unless desired.
• Requires completion of a learning agreement form and approval of your mentor.
• Examples include participation in a workshop, seminar, or conference that includes discussions and collaborations with non-public health professionals (including infection preventionists, physicians, dentists, nurses, psychologist if related to infection control or if not, then a cross-section of other disciplines) on relevant public health issues
• Final product will be in the form of a reflection paper describing the event and what you learned from it with emphasis on the interdisciplinary side. Format guidelines for the reflection paper will be provided.