

Department of Community Health Sciences Masters of Public Health (MPH)

Field Placement - Supervisor Information

Aim of the MPH Program

The MPH program is designed to attract high-caliber students wishing to further their training in applied community health at the Masters level, but not wishing to pursue a thesis based Master's degree. Training provides core and elective knowledge and skills in community health and public health practice relevant to career plans through traditional course work and a supervised field placement opportunity.

The MPH Program Requirements

The MPH program consists of completion of core courses, elective courses and a supervised field placement component. The field placement may be planned prior to the completion of courses, but may not begin until all courses have been completed. The field placement component provides the opportunity to apply academic knowledge and skills most relevant for future career development in a supervised setting or program. This placement may encompass some of the following areas: fundamental sciences of community health, including quantitative and qualitative research methods, epidemiology and biostatistics; principles, methods and practical skills in community health assessment; community health program development, planning, and evaluation; principles and practice of prevention and population health promotion; or health services management and administration, including strategic planning, business plan development, budget, finance and human resource management.

Field Placement Regulations and Procedures:

The approved field placement will be in a governmental or non-governmental community health agency (the Agency). The field placement will include a minimum of three months full-time equivalent spent on-site, and completion of a project. The site of the field placement will be based on the student's career interests and learning needs, and determined in discussion with the Faculty Advisor, and approved by the MPH Program Committee. If the field placement is to occur within a regional, provincial or national public health program, multiple sites may be appropriate. If a student requests that the field placement be located at his/her current agency of employment, this request may be considered by the Faculty Advisor; however, the proposed educational objectives and student project must be distinct and independent from the student's current roles and responsibilities as an employee of the agency, and the local supervisor (see below) must be someone other than the student's employment supervisor. Written educational objectives and a letter of understanding regarding the field placement arrangements must be agreed to and signed by all parties prior to commencement. It may be completed on a part-time basis for approved part-time students. Many of the available field placements will be modeled on successful established practical rotations of the Department's existing Community Medicine Residency Program, and the Western Regional Training Centre for Health Services Research (WRTC). The field placement will be supervised by both the Faculty advisor (based in the Department) and a local supervisor (based in the Agency). All local supervisors must have at

least Masters-level qualification or its equivalent in training and experience. All local supervisors will be required to attend a Faculty-run orientation.

Procedures for Student Evaluation:

A written mid-term and final evaluation of the field performance will be provided by the local supervisor on a standard form provided by the Department. The learning and experiences gained by the student on the field placement will be shared with Department through a required written report on the placement, to be graded by the Advisor. The final grade for the field placement will be determined by the MPH Program Committee, based on the local supervisor's evaluation and the written report grade. The annual progress report to the Faculty of Graduate Studies will be provided by the Faculty Advisor, based on the above evaluative components.