Overview

The goal of Bachelor of Science in Public Health Honors Practicum program is to provide students with a yearlong intensive applied public health experience and an opportunity to develop skills to successfully apply for jobs and graduate training and the ability to act professionally in the work environment.

The Honors Practicum is limited to a maximum of 20 students. If accepted, you will participate in a public health evaluation from beginning to end and have the opportunity to use the knowledge and skills developed in the public health major. The evaluations are designed to provide a service to the sites to inform or improve their vital activities. As a result, they must be of a caliber that reflects the high academic expectations of an honors program.

The year-long projects will be done in small groups. Rarely in public health do we have the opportunity to work alone, and the practicum will provide you with the opportunity to develop interpersonal and negotiation skills to work effectively with others. You will be given the choice of four to five community-based evaluation project options before class begins in the fall quarter. You will be assigned to work with between three and five other students for the entire year on your group’s project. Each group will have a mentor or will work directly with the instructor on their evaluations.

The fall quarter will be devoted to the development of a protocol for an evaluation of a community-based program. During the winter quarter, you will actually gather your data according to the protocol your group has developed and begin the next step on analyzing the data and justifying conclusions. During spring quarter, you will continue with the justification of conclusions and carry out the final step ensuring use of evaluation findings and the dissemination of lessons learned. Sessions designed to improve job and graduate school application skills, including resume writing, interviewing skills, and networking, as well as self-knowledge about working styles will be interspersed through the fall and winter quarters.

Each quarter, there will be didactic sessions on key topics, but much of the class time will be dedicated to working with your group to conduct the various evaluation steps. These activities cannot be completed in the limited class time, however, and you will need to dedicate several hours a week outside class to completing the group assignments through either face-to-face encounters or collaborative document writing and editing in Google Docs or similar platforms. The course is structured around the Introduction to Evaluation self-study document developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that outlines the six main steps in performing a public health evaluation. Readings will be limited, though you will be expected to carefully read the required documents and view the required videos. You will also be taught how to use Epi Info 7, a user-friendly, free software widely used in public health departments. It works best on PCs, though can be run on Macs through the use of Windows emulators or through the University VPN and on some library computers as well.

Through the BSPH Honors Program, students will learn professionalism in the workplace; how to conduct program planning and evaluation; how to develop proposals regarding research, program planning, or evaluation; critical thinking skills; and how to communicate effectively to diverse audiences. Students should plan on dedicating at least 10 hours a week to practicum activities outside the classroom. Especially during winter quarter, each student will expected to spend several hours during daytime hours collecting data and will need to plan class schedules and outside work activities accordingly.
Eligibility

In order to participate all students must have:

- Successfully completed FMPH 40, 50, 101 or 102, and 110
- A cumulative UC GPA 3.0 or higher
- Submit the Honors Practicum application by the deadline
- Complete an in-person interview
- Complete liability waiver and all necessary paperwork or testing as identified by the assigned practicum site
- Commit to the full 12-unit course series over the academic year, which includes:
  - 4 units FMPH 196A (Fall)
  - 4 units FMPH 196B (Winter)
  - 4 units FMPH 196C (Spring)

Assignments

Students will be assigned to groups of 3-5 based on their preferences. Projects will change from year to year based on community interest and availability.

Applying

We will be accepting applications for the 2018-2019 Honors Practicum Program shortly. Applications must be completed by Wednesday, May 8th, 2019 at 11:59pm and can be found at the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwubMMNKAzXM4EFXAANZLn8S8pla5amfUuuZDmDdfe6zqDla/viewform?usp=sf_link

Distinction in the Major

Successful completion of the Public Health Honors Program requires a minimum grade of B in FMPH 196A, FMPH 196B, and FMPH 196C, and a minimum GPA of 3.25 in the upper-division courses taken for the major to earn Distinction in the Major. Students who earn a grade of B or higher in FMPH 196A, FMPH 196B, and FMPH 196C, and a minimum GPA of 3.5 in the upper-division courses taken for the major will earn High Distinction in the Major. Students who earn a grade of B or higher in FMPH 196A, FMPH 196B, and FMPH 196C, and a minimum GPA of 3.75 in the upper-division courses taken for the major will earn Highest Distinction in the Major.