

# School of Public Health

Working together to prepare public health professionals to face the challenges of tomorrow

## Public Health Practicum

### A great opportunity for your organization

Founded in 2007, the University of Saskatchewan's School of Public Health is an interdisciplinary school offering innovative opportunities for graduate education and training, public health research and programming to ensure our public health system is responsive to future health challenges.

Through its Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program, the School of Public Health trains future public health professionals to measure, assess and manage the ever-increasing complexity of population and public health issues. As part of the MPH curriculum, graduate students are required to complete a 12-week experiential practicum that allows them to integrate classroom theory into a public health work environment, whether it is within a local public health unit, a provincial or federal governmental agency, a non-governmental organization or an international agency.

Working closely with various research centres and leading national and international scientists, industry experts and practitioners, the School of Public Health places students in a number of areas, including:

- Indigenous People's health
- Agricultural and rural public health
- Applied public health
- Biostatistics
- Environmental health
- Epidemiology
- Global health
- Health policy
- Health program planning & evaluation
- Health promotion
- Human-animal interface in infectious disease
- Social and behavioural health
- Vaccinology and Immunotherapeutics

### A good fit for you and our students

Throughout their practicums, students contribute to an organization's resources, address public health issues, and develop personal confidence and skills as a public health professional. The School is looking to place graduate students in organizations that:

- require the student to apply graduate-level public health competencies acquired in the MPH program;
- address a practical public health problem/issue;
- can advance the student's knowledge and skills while benefitting the organization;
- have a field supervisor who has public health experience, gives constructive feedback, clearly communicates expectations, understands the student's needs, and is available and approachable; and
- provide the necessary organizational environment and supports for students to experience success.



## Practicum Project

### What is defined as a good practicum project?

- A research project
- A surveillance initiative
- A health promotion project
- A needs analysis
- A program evaluation

### What skills will students have when starting their practica?

Students will have completed course work in: biostatistics, epidemiology, health promotion, health policy, environmental health, health program planning and evaluation, an introduction to ethics and integrity, and ethics and integrity in human research.

### When do the practica take place?

Students can engage in the practicum in the Winter or Spring/Summer terms after they have completed the prerequisites for the practicum: PUBH 800, PUBH 803, PUBH 805, PUBH 807, PUBH 810, PUBH 867, GSR 960, GSR 961.

### What are the goals for the student?

- Integrate, synthesis and apply public health competencies acquired in prerequisite courses to a real-world public health situation;
- Work on offering a solution to a substantive public health problem or issue relevant to the sponsoring organization;
- Engage in professional self-assessment and critical reflection;
- Enhance and develop skills needed to function in a professional public health setting including:
  - problem identification, analysis and solving;
  - interpersonal skills including working as part of an interdisciplinary public health team;
  - oral and written communication; and
  - understanding the mission, structure and function of the public health organization.

### Is there a financial obligation?

No, sponsoring organizations are not required to offer a stipend to students.

## A way to ensure success

Success of a practicum placement depends on the selection of quality practice locations with experienced and motivated field supervisors and academic advisors. A learning contract will be established at the beginning of the practicum. This will guide the learning activities of the student and provide a framework for student evaluations.

## A way to get involved

If you are interested in hosting an MPH student, please provide the practicum director with the following:

- name, qualifications and contact information for the field supervisor;
- name of the agency;
- ideal dates for commencing and ending the practicum;
- physical location of the practicum;
- availability of a stipend; and
- a description of the proposed project.

Practicum opportunities are circulated amongst the student body.



### For more information:

If you are interested in serving as a practica site and hosting a practicum student, or if you have further questions, please contact:

#### **Dr. Michael Szafron**

MPH Practicum Coordinator  
Phone: (306) 966-5468

#### **Marylin Rana**

MPH Practicum Program Assistant  
Phone: (306) 966-1649

Email: [sph.practicum@usask.ca](mailto:sph.practicum@usask.ca)

School of Public Health  
University of Saskatchewan  
104 Clinic Place  
Saskatoon SK S7N 2Z4