



# ADVANCED PRACTICUM FIELD EXPERIENCE

## Student Handbook: BSPH

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**Student Handbook:**

**BSPH**

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Last updated December, 2016

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## Introduction

The goal of the BSPH Advanced Practicum program is to provide students with a year-long intensive applied public health experience. Through a mix of coursework and experiential learning opportunities, students will apply public health principles to real-world settings. The BSPH Advanced Practicum series hosts a range of field placement sites, placing students in school-based settings, health clinics, and other community sites focused on pressing public health issues.

The goals of the Advanced Practicum series are to:

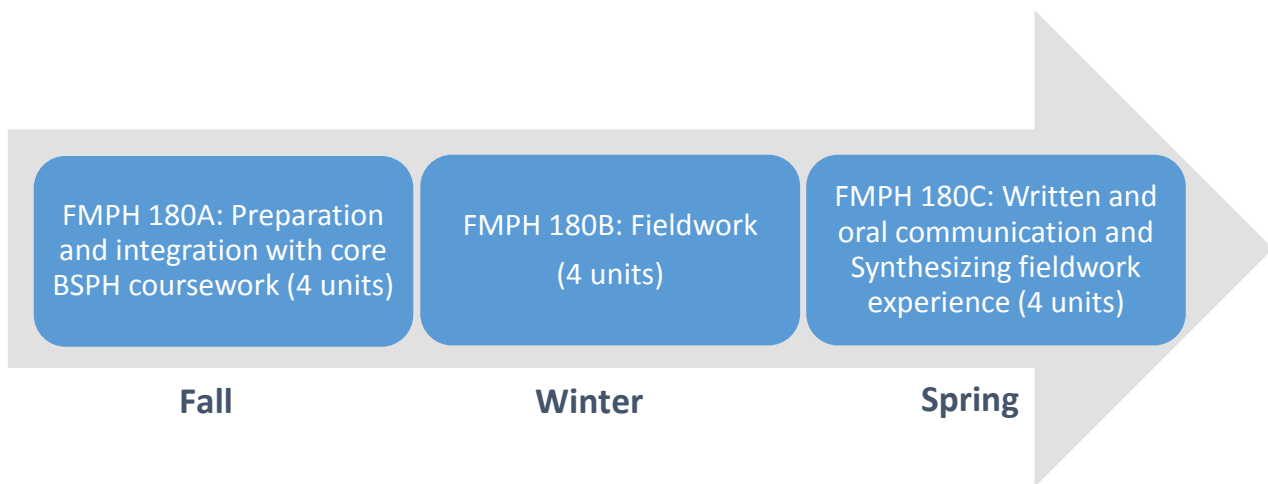
- Provide opportunities for in-depth and applied experiences related to pressing public health topics
- Provide close interaction with public health faculty throughout the year-long experience
- Establish individualized learning objectives that support student personal and professional development
- Support student growth in their oral and written communication skills
- Support collaborative partnerships with community organizations addressing diverse public health topics
- Provide deliverable products and programs that address public health issues addressed by the practicum sites

This program provides a unique opportunity for top public health majors to prepare for jobs and graduate programs in public health after graduation.

## Criteria Advanced Practicum Program

### Eligibility

- Successful completion of FPMU 40, 50, 101 or 102, and 110
- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Complete liability waiver and all necessary paperwork or testing as identified by the assigned practicum site
- Commitment to the full 12-unit course series, which includes:
  - 4 units FMPH 180A (Fall Quarter)
  - 4 units FMPH 180B (Winter Quarter) at a pre-approved practicum site
  - 4 units FMPH 180C (Spring Quarter)



## Checklist and Timelines

### **Academic Year Prior to Participating in the Advanced Practicum**

- **Winter Quarter Prior:** Advanced Practicum application and a resume/curriculum vitae due; check the [BSPH website](#) for current year deadlines
- **Winter Quarter Prior:** Interviews completed
- **Spring Quarter Prior:** Site interviews, if applicable
- **Spring Quarter Prior:** Students notified of placements
- **Summer Quarter Prior:** Complete paperwork required by the assigned practicum site

### **Academic Year - Advanced Practicum**

- **Fall:** Attend orientation for site as scheduled by site director and the practicum site
- **Fall:** Complete FMPH 180A
- **Winter:** Complete FMPH 180B
- **Spring:** Complete FMPH 180C

## Frequently Asked Questions

**1. Can I participate in a practicum site without taking the additional courses?**

No, the Advanced Practicum sites are specific to the 12-unit course commitment. Additional internship and research opportunities available to students not enrolled in the Advanced Practicum program are available on the [BSPH website](#).

**2. Can I change my practicum site?**

No. Students will apply for and be placed to a specific practicum site. Students must submit their site preferences at the time of applying for the advanced practicum series and site preferences will be considered when matching students to their practicum site.

**3. How will this help prepare me for graduate school or a job?**

The goal of the program is to provide students with real-world experience and to support students' overall personal and professional development. The Advanced Practicum program provides an excellent opportunity for students to build their resume and to work closely with faculty and mentors. If students perform well at their site, the program serves as an opportunity to develop strong relationships with mentors who can support subsequent pursuit of graduate school and job opportunities.

**4. Will this count toward my degree requirements?**

**If you entered UCSD prior to FA16:**

- a. FMPH 180A, FMPH 180B, and FMPH 180C can count toward UD electives

**If you entered UCSD in FA16 or later:**

- a. FMPH 180A can count toward UD electives
- b. FMPH 180B and FMPH 180C will satisfy the two quarter Public Health Capstone (FMPH 193 and FMPH 194)

**5. Is it required?**

No, the Advanced Practicum program is not currently required of all public health majors.

**6. What are the minimum requirements?**

In order to participate all BSPH students must have

- Successful completion of FPMU 40, 50, 101 or 102, and 110
- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Submit the Advanced Practicum application and a resume/curriculum vitae by the deadline
- Complete liability waiver and all necessary paperwork or testing as identified by the assigned practicum site
- Commitment to the full 12-unit course series, which includes:
  - 4 units FMPH 180A (Fall Quarter)
  - 4 units FMPH 180B (Winter Quarter) at a pre-approved practicum site
  - 4 units FMPH 180C (Spring Quarter)

**7. Can I take it Pass/No Pass?**

No, you can't take FMPH 180A, FMPH 180B, or FMPH 180C for P/NP grading option.

**8. Is there any cost associated with the practicum?**

There may be some costs associated with transportation to/from the practicum sites, depending on where a student is placed. Some sites also have requirements for health screenings (e.g. TB tests, specific vaccinations completed) and students should review each site to identify potential costs associated with obtaining documentation for those health requirements. Students are able to obtain most of these services at little to no cost through [Student Health Services](#). Additionally, one site, HFIT, is located internationally. Students at the HFIT clinic must have a valid passport for the duration of

their practicum placement. Please review the Site Details Table to determine potential costs associated with each practicum site.

**9. I don't have a car. Can I still participate?**

Practicum sites are all in different locations, so you should identify your transportation options when travel to a field site is required. Many sites are located near public transportation options or along [UCSD van service routes](#). Students may also explore carpool options with other students placed to the same practicum site.

**10. How many hours am I expected to be on-site during the FPMU 180B field placement experience?**

All placements require a minimum of 120 hours of field placement experience. Each site has different requirements and you should read each site description carefully to identify site requirements for on- and off-site activities. Additional information about site activities will be provided at the site orientation provided at the start of the academic year.

**11. How do I enroll in the classes?**

Enrollment in the course series is based on successful application and placement at one of the practicum sites. If selected, students will be provided the necessary information required for registering for the course series.