

College of Public Health – Student & Community Engagement

What is the Applied Practice Experience (APEX)?

- The Applied Practice Experience (APEX) is a requirement of every Master of Public Health students to engage in 100 hours with a partner organization, addressing the organization's identified needs.
- The project scope of the APEX should be mutually beneficial to both the partner organization and the student.

Who do students partner with for the APEX?

- Partner organizations may be from governmental, non-governmental, non-profit, industrial and for-profit settings or appropriate university-affiliated settings.
- The student collaborates with a representative from the partner organization, known as a preceptor.

What type of projects or activities will be done through the APEX?

- The types of activities will range for each partner organization and the student, but the focus is to address specific needs identified from the partner organization while applying foundational public health competencies.
- Examples of products (two are required from the student by the completion of 100 hours) may include, but are not limited to the following; evaluation plan, health education materials, policy brief, grant database, survey development, update organization's promotional materials or website, development of printed or electronic promotions materials, multi-media presentations, videos, etc.

What do preceptors and students say about the APEX?

- “This has been such an amazing experience. Thank you for allowing me to participate!! I believe [the student] is going to continue volunteering with us, which is awesome. She's helped me work on things that wouldn't have happened without her.” – Preceptor
- “Since its small it's a very team focused environment where everyone does their part and is willing and ready to help where they are needed. They continue to operate very closely with [partner nearby] which has been an interesting relationship to observe. They understand the importance of maintaining relationships with their community partners.” – MPH Student
- “I now better understand inter-professional collaboration and how it is key to starting and moving forward with any major public health program. This understanding will help me provide better collaborative communication and planning in future projects.” – MPH Student

Who do I contact for more information about the APEX?

For more information, please contact UNMC, College of Public Health, Office of Public Health Practice.

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